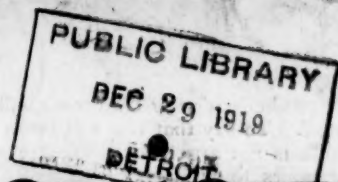


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EDITORIAL NOTICE:—The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected Communications. He must also decline to enter into correspondence with writers of MSS. sent in and not acknowledged. It is preferred that MSS. should be typewritten.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

The climate certainly did its worst to spoil the home-coming of the Prince of Wales. In the metropolis it was what we think Sam Weller used to call "a London particular," that is, a black fog accompanied by a heavy downpour. Just at 1.15 the rain slackened a little, and the small procession of Life Guards in khaki, mounted police, and foot men in mackintoshes escorted the open landau and four in which sat the Heir Apparent. From the window where we sat there was nothing like a crowd visible, only a few passengers under umbrellas, who waved and cheered loyally. What a contrast it must have been to the Prince, who had been spending months in the centre of tumultuous and enthusiastic crowds on the other side of the Atlantic to enter his own London in such depressing conditions! The police, by the bye, took the most absurd precautions to keep vehicular traffic at a considerable distance from the route.

The extent of the mischief wrought by President Wilson at the Paris Conference is only gradually being realised by the nations, of which the last to grasp it is the British public. Mr. Wilson is a political gambler: he knew perfectly that he was acting *ultra vires* and defying the American Constitution in his conduct of the peace negotiations. He knew that he was bound by the Constitution to secure not only "the consent" but "the advice" of the Senate before he signed a Treaty, and he had neither. He also knew that, not only was the majority of the Senate hostile, but that the November elections of Congressmen had gone against him. He therefore determined to tie up the Peace Treaty and the League of Nations in the same parcel, just as a clever company promoter merges a bad in a good company. It was a bold stroke, but it failed.

Not that we accuse President Wilson of insincerity. He really believed in his League of Nations and his Fourteen Points. But he is a man of autocratic temper, and he knew that he was exceeding his powers. The misfortune was that neither M. Clemenceau nor Mr. Lloyd George knew anything about the American Constitution, or the state of parties in the United States. If they had, they would doubtless have pointed out to Mr. Wilson that he was exposing the European world to risks which he ought not to ask the

Entente Powers to run. Mr. Lloyd George has less excuse than M. Clemenceau. No one expects a Frenchman to know anything about anything outside France. But Mr. Lloyd George had been warned by certain organs of the Press, and by several members of Parliament, by Mr. Macmaster and others, of the danger of tying up the Treaty of Peace with the League of Nations. Of course he refused to listen, as nowadays he will not hear anything from anybody which he does not wish to hear. He, like Mr. Wilson, like all demagogues, is an autocrat; and, like Mr. Wilson, he will have a fall.

It is a pity that Hansard's Debates are so inaccessible to the public, as the newspaper reports of speeches grow worse, and parliamentary discussions, particularly in the Lords, are sometimes an education. For instance, about ten days ago Lord D'Abernon made a speech on currency and high prices, which was so interesting and informative that it ought to be published as a pamphlet. Lord D'Abernon easily disproved the commonly accepted conclusion that high prices are due mainly to scarcity of production by showing from tables that the average production of staple commodities is 91 per cent. of the pre-war production. Lord D'Abernon ascribes the high cost of living almost entirely to the paper currency, and regards currency and prices as indissolubly linked. But there was one cause of high prices of which Lord Abernon said nothing, namely, high cost.

It is strange that so scientific an observer should have omitted cost of production as a contributory cause of high prices. Cost of production is, of course, due to higher wages. There is yet another cause of dearth which Lord D'Abernon ignored, increased demand. The consuming power of the masses is almost doubled since 1914. The majority of the five millions who served in the Army were better clothed and better fed than they had ever been before, and this created new tastes and habits, which called for double wages to satisfy them. Lord Peel's figures showed that the amount of the deposits in the banks in 1918 was more than double the amount in 1914, some £750,000,000 having risen to £1,750,000,000. This Lord D'Abernon would say is due to inflation; but it is not exclusively so.

Mr. Duncan, organiser of the agricultural labourers in Scotland, has said: "We admit quite frankly that

the eight-hours day for dairymen will mean an increase of staff. To say that this will mean a rise in the price of milk is not argument. We are not going to work long hours to produce cheap milk for the miners." Quite so, though we might remind Mr. Duncan that it is the children of all classes who want cheap milk. But the miners are as good logicians as Mr. Duncan, and they say, "quite frankly," that they are not going to work long hours to produce cheap coal for the manufacturer and the domestic hearth. And the railway men say, quite frankly, that they are not going to work long hours to produce cheap tickets for travellers; and the dock labourers say, quite frankly, that they are not going to work long hours to supply the community with tea, sugar, and tobacco from the ships. In short, everybody says, "quite frankly," to everybody else, "I am out for as much as I can get, and everybody else be damned!" Such is the altruistic spirit on which the Fabians build a new State!

We don't know who composes the Notes which the Allies address to the German Government on the clauses of the Peace Treaty. The language is neither that of a soldier nor a diplomatist. What is the good of this sort of thing? "As long as the German conscience does not understand as does the whole world that evil must be repaired and criminals punished, Germany must not expect to re-enter the community of nations, nor to obtain from the Allies the forgiveness of her faults and an amelioration of the just conditions of peace." This is the style of a Sunday-school teacher lecturing a lot of children. It is no use telling a nation of some 70 millions, smarting under defeat, that they must beg forgiveness for their faults. The Allies are making themselves ridiculous. For goodness' sake, let Marshal Foch or M. Cambon conduct the correspondence.

Then again there is this passage. The Allies experience "profound astonishment" that "amongst the criminals there seems to be neither enough courage nor enough patriotism for them to come freely to the bar of judgment which they deserve." We don't know what experience of life the composer of these phrases may have had. Personally we have never met or heard of criminals who came freely to the bar of judgment. On the contrary, the criminals of our acquaintance are generally animated by a strong and natural desire to give the bar of judgment as wide a berth as possible. Do the authors of these notes really expect the commandants who have tortured our prisoners, and the ravishers of French and Belgian women, to come forward and give themselves up? Long ago THE SATURDAY REVIEW pointed out the mistake of not demanding the surrender of these miscreants at the time of the Armistice. Now they have most of them escaped to Switzerland, or Sweden, or the Baltic provinces.

The Speaker's ruling on the Anti-Dumping Bill strikes us as an astonishing piece of sophistry. It is the law of the land, established by the Revolution of 1688, that no tax shall be imposed except by the House of Commons, and that all Bills for the purpose shall be preceded by a resolution in Committee of Ways and Means. The Anti-Dumping Bill proposes to hand over to the officials of the Board of Trade, assisted occasionally by a committee of ten members of Parliament, the power of laying duties of import on foreign goods. The Speaker rules that the Anti-Dumping Bill is an emergency measure, designed to "steady the trade" of the country in exceptional times, and that the duties are "incidental to the policy." It may be so: but that is no reason why illegal measures should be resorted to. Emergency, and necessity, and such like terms, have been always "the tyrant's plea."

What is still stranger, the Speaker rules, if we understand his answer to Lord Robert Cecil and Sir Frederick Banbury, that the imposition of fines and fees on importers by the Board of Trade must be authorised by a resolution in Committee of Ways and Means. We should have thought that fines and fees were a merely administrative act which did not require

a financial resolution. But we despair of fighting the bureaucrats successfully, because the masses are willing to give them any amount of power provided they will use it for looting and harassing the propertied class. Lord Robert Cecil said, some weeks ago, we think at the City Temple, or in his constituency, that the English people loved liberty. It is not the fact. The new democracy don't care a button about liberty: but they have a passion, based on class hatred, for equality. Provided their governors will pull down to their own level those that are above them, the masses will eagerly submit to the most stringent and pervasive restrictions of liberty.

In matters of money, as in law, medicine, and most of the affairs of life, it is generally prudent to follow the advice of experts. We do not recognise Mr. Bottomley or Sir Clement Cooke as experts in finance, and when we have to weigh their advice as to the issue of premium bonds against that of the bankers and big City dealers in money who advise the Chancellor of the Exchequer, we unhesitatingly prefer the latter. We need hardly say we haven't the smallest moral objection to the issue of premium bonds. We regard the gambling argument as pure cant. Every individual worth his salt, and every nation that succeeds, take speculative risks in business, and buying premium bonds on the chance of drawing a prize is no more gambling than buying Old Consols at 50 on the chance of their rising to 70 or 80. The only question with us is, would the issue of premium bonds be a financially sound policy?

At the same time, without being prudish, we recognise the danger of stimulating the "get-rich-quick" spirit, which is far too prevalent to-day, and which is being substituted for the duller process of working and saving. The clenching argument was the statement of Mr. Chamberlain that premium bonds would not succeed in producing money. The idea that the working-classes are willing to invest any portion of their trebled wages in paying off the National Debt is a myth, as the figures of the Five Per Cent. War Bonds prove. The number of investors through the Savings Banks was about 1,375,000, and the number of subscribers through the Bank of England was 1,066,000. But the Savings Banks subscriptions produced £38,000,000, while the Bank of England issue produced £928,000,000. That settles the matter to our mind, and we hope it will bring home to the working-classes the madness of attacking the rich. Mr. Bottomley's motion was rejected by a majority of 192.

Mr. H. W. Forster, who is retiring from the House of Commons with a peerage, is the very type of the pleasant-mannered, good-looking, athletic Englishman, whom everybody likes. He was in the Eleven at Eton and Oxford; but he is without political ambition, and though gifted with that rarest of qualities, common sense, he has no pretensions to intellectuality. He would have made an ideal Speaker, and at one time he was talked of as a candidate. But the loss of his son in the war has deprived Mr. Forster of the elasticity of mind and gaiety of endurance which, in these days, are indispensable to the occupant of the Chair.

There has been some correspondence lately about the part which the Jews have taken in the Bolshevik revolution and in anarchical societies generally. The truth about the matter we take to be this. The Jews are a small race who have settled themselves in almost every country in the world. Their average mental calibre is higher than that of any other race, not excepting the Celts and the Armenians. Their average physique is lower, owing to their previous occupations. Their average moral character is neither better nor worse than that of other races. A famous French burlesque declares, "Cet animal est très méchant; quand on l'attaque, il se défend." This is true of Jews and of Christians. When the Government treats the Jews like other people, they become loyal and prosperous citizens. When they are ill-treated or persecuted by the Government, they join revolutions. The

Russians have massacred and maltreated their Jews; and therefore many of them joined the Bolsheviks.

Plymouth ought to be disfranchised as the most frivolous, if not the most corrupt, constituency in the kingdom. How far the return of "Nancy Witcher" was due to the spirit of the music-hall, or how far it was procured by the diffusion of golden philanthropy, it is impossible to say. We have always objected to female suffrage; but we remember that in the days of the militants we were assured that though women wanted to vote they did not want to be voted for, or, if they did, that nobody would vote for them. "Nancy Witcher" has belied this argument: but she has not witched us. Strong as our original objections to women members were, they are ten times stronger against this particular one. If we must have women in Parliament, let them at least be Englishwomen, who have that peculiar knowledge of English habits and life and wants, that comes only to those who are "to the manner born." Nancy Witcher was born and has lived the greater part of her life in America. Her first husband was an American, and she is only qualified, if she be qualified, to sit in the House of Commons by her second marriage with a born American, who has become a naturalised Briton.

The dislike which most Americans feel for the Astor family was expressed, in terms perhaps a little rough, by Mr. Wade of Chicago in a letter published by us last week. The feeling is quite natural. When a man leaves his native country and settles in another, if he is of any importance, it is natural that the insult should be felt and uttered by the spurned beauty. The late Lord Astor built up his enormous fortune by buying land in and about New York half a century ago. He became the greatest of ground-landlords, but fancied his greatness not appreciated. He came over here towards the end of the last century and took out his naturalisation certificate. With Yankee astuteness, he bought a newspaper, a magazine, a castle, and finally a coronet. Mr. Asquith made him a baron, and Mr. Lloyd George a viscount in 1917. His son, who went to Eton and Oxford, takes himself as a serious statesman, and got Mr. Thomas to bring in a Bill to allow him to surrender his peerage, which the House of Commons refused even to discuss.

May we hope that the Nancy Witcher stunt will now die down? We fear not. Lady Astor's entrance to the House of Commons was an undignified affair. The men swarmed round her like flies round an appetising morsel. Disraeli said in one of his novels that to be in the House of Commons without being in society was like playing blind-man's buff. London society has no very definite meaning now, being composed almost entirely of officials and plutocrats. Still, that world which flits between Whitehall and Carlton House Terrace and Grosvenor Square has some influence in the House of Commons, if only as a foil to the Labour party. In that world of Ministers and millionaires the Astors are, of course, familiar personages; for Lord Astor, who, we hope, will pardon the obnoxious prefix, is not only a *richissime*, but a polypapist, as he owns several newspapers. Of this kind of snobbishness the Viscountess (hateful word, as Mr. Fisher said) will continue to be the centre.

Almost could we find it in our heart to forgive Mr. Charles Garvice for the rubbish which he shoots into the minds of boys and girls from his novels because of his stout defence of the Middle Class against the looters. As Mr. Garvice says, truly and pathetically, the clerical and professional classes make incredible sacrifices of income to educate their children. The manual workers make no sacrifice at all to educate and rear their families. The working man's children are educated for him free of cost, at the expense of his neighbours: he is now to have a house built for him partly at the expense of his neighbours, and for which he is to pay less than the economic rent. Has all self-respect departed from the working-classes? Of course the process of looting the classes who have saved money must come to an end, and sooner than the Trade Unionists

imagine. When there are no more hen-roosts to rob, the working-man will have to choose between taxing himself, and dropping Socialism.

We have scientific instruments for measuring almost everything, the pressure of the air, electricity, gas, blood, even the rubber in the liquid latex drawn from the tree, called a metrolac. There is nothing to measure the movements of national character, no moral barometer. We will not go back to "the sinless years that breath'd beneath the Syrian blue"; but consider the enormous gap between Law's 'Serious Call' and the Whole Duty of Twentieth Century Men and Women, which is to make £10,000 a year! That is the aim of life: not to write a great book, or paint a beautiful picture; not to compose a speech, or a sonnet, or to build a cathedral; not to be a great soldier or sailor; still less to lead a Christian life; but to make £10,000 a year. Mr. Higham says (and he ought to know) that any young man can do it; Lady Rhondda says that any young woman can do it. We have no doubt: but what a national ideal!

The principle of limiting profits on individual enterprise is so dangerous and so absurd that it must lead to State purchase, or Nationalisation, whether its authors intend it or not. If the miners were more cleverly led, by men unblinded by class hatred and with some knowledge of economics, they would accept the limitation of owners' profits and wait patiently for the inevitable sequel. All the leaders of political parties, the Prime Minister, Mr. Bonar Law, and Mr. Asquith, have explicitly stated their refusal to accept Nationalisation of coal mines. Yet they propose a policy which must lead, sooner rather than later, to State purchase. Is this muddle-headedness, or the incorrigible cowardice and hypocrisy of our political leaders? Does any sane man suppose that the possessors of capital will sink it in coal-pits if they have to hand over half their profits to the State, while they are left with the risk of loss?

We quite agree with the resolution carried at the meeting of the Council of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce that "the recent proposals for the taxation of what are in many cases mistakenly called war profits are preventing British trade expansion and are shaking the confidence of those to whom capital and reserved profits are the working tools of their trades." This was proposed by Mr. A. M. Samuel, M.P., and seconded by Mr. E. F. Stockton, President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. Five-sixths of the national revenue are now paid by taxes on income, excess profits, and death duties. The Chancellor of the Exchequer told us that the working-class subscriptions to the last War Loan were trifling compared with the nine hundred millions subscribed through the big banks. Is it not foolish, as well as unjust, to set up an inquisition on the way men have made money during the war? It will involve the examination of the pass-books and most intimate private affairs of individuals, which is a very dangerous precedent. Once Government begins asking individuals how they have made their money, there is no knowing where they will stop.

Lord Moulton made an unexpected and vigorous attack on the whole principle of State Socialism in the second reading of the Electricity Supply Bill. Lord Moulton is a lawyer, a Liberal, and an eminent scientist: and with the combined precision of the Bar and the laboratory he made the following points against the Bill:—1. With our enormous Debt, it is no time for the Government to spend millions on schemes which can only take effect years hence. 2. To supply our towns with light and heat by mains hundreds of miles long is to expose them to destruction by fanatics, anarchists, or trade unionists. Lord Moulton condemned the whole policy of the Bill (i.e., State Socialism) as "retrograde and injurious," and declared that it would "not only nationalise but bureaucratised" the electrical industry. Thank God, there are still some eminent men left who will stand up for individualism! The Lord Chancellor was horrified and aghast at Lord Moulton's audacity.

ANNEX EGYPT.

EGYPT has suffered much—more even than Ireland and India—from the insincerity and cowardice of successive British Governments. There was some excuse for the duplicity of Gladstone in the last century, because at one time the declared annexation of Egypt would have involved us in serious European complications. In the seventies and eighties we were bound to our partner in the Anglo-French Protectorate. Even when the French had refused our invitation to join in the bombardment of Alexandria, and had sullenly withdrawn from participation in the government of Egypt, anything like annexation would have arrayed against us a formidable European combination, in which certainly France and Italy, possibly Germany and Austria, would have been found. At the close of the century, by the tact of Lord Rosebery and the sagacity of Lord Salisbury, all our difficulties with France in Egypt were settled, when the Jameson Raid and the South African war intervened to prevent a perfectly good understanding. That cloud, too, passed away, and King Edward set himself to bring about what has been known since the beginning of the century as the *Entente Cordiale*. The Great War has just ended, and we should like to know what Power has a word to say against the annexation of Egypt by Great Britain? We ought rather to ask, what Power would not welcome the declaration that Britain had annexed Egypt?

Why then do we not annex Egypt by word, as we have done in fact? Simply because British statesmen cannot cure themselves of the habit, bred by a life passed in talking to the gallery, of flourishing in the face of the world fine phrases about self-government, and progressive development, and national aspirations, which no one knows better than themselves to be words, words, words. Take as an example the recent speech of Lord Curzon on Egypt. Through two and a half columns of the *Times* Lord Curzon rolled on, emitting sonorous generalities and resonant platitudes about Egyptian nationality, and never coming within a mile of the real question at issue. Has Lord Curzon any idea of what he means by Egyptian nationality? There is no such thing, either legally, or ethnically. There is a large Bedouin peasantry, known as the fellahen, and there is a small class of landed proprietors or big farmers, also Bedouin Arabs. There are the Copts, and there is the official class, who are Turks, Armenians, Syrians, Levantines, of every sort and kind. Then there are the Europeans, who composed the financial and mercantile societies of Cairo and Alexandria. These men have most of them lived with their families in Egypt for two and three generations, and yet have remained subjects of England, France, Italy, Germany, Austria, Greece, Spain, Russia, and America. These men live under the Capitulations, and have a right to protection or redress from the Mixed Tribunals. You may make a political State out of such a hotch-pot of races: but it is nonsense to talk of Egyptian nationality, its legitimate aspirations, its progressive development, and so on through the gamut of Lord Curzon's mouth-filling phrases. Has our Foreign Secretary any notion of what he does mean? If the speech was meant for consumption in the bazaars, a piece of Asiatic rhetoric intended to tickle Oriental ears, we can only say the time is past for such tricks of statecraft. What the residents in Egypt, white, brown, and black, really want to know is Britain's policy with regard to the Capitulations and the Mixed Tribunals. The Italians and Frenchmen in Egypt, to say nothing of other nationalities, will not willingly surrender their citizenship, and hand themselves over to the tender mercies of the Turkish rabble of officials, to whom Lord Curzon is pleased to ascribe "national aspirations," but whose only real aspiration is to return to the good old days of backsheesh and bastinado.

But of course the Foreign Office knows a great deal more of the business than the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. The Office must have read with a smile the meaningless and full-blown rhetoric of its

chief. But when it came to a question in the House of Commons, the Office quietly instructed a young official to answer to the point. On the 27th November Mr. Dudley Ward told his questioner that "it was impossible to analyse all the causes contributing to bring about the present disturbed condition of Egypt: but it was undoubtedly the case that the absence of sufficient British Civil Servants during the war rendered the inspection and control of the minor Egyptian officials impossible. The proposal of a Civil Service responsible for assisting in the good government of all Arabic-speaking countries under British protectorate or mandate would receive consideration when the extent of our new obligations towards Arabic-speaking countries was determined." This is business, for it is the exact truth that what Egypt wants is more, not less, British rule, and the establishment of a new branch of the British Civil Service to administer Egypt and the new Arabic Kingdom which we have decided to establish in Palestine is an excellent idea. It is the fact that all these Egyptian troubles arise from the necessary withdrawal of British supervision during the war. Instead of boggling over a Protectorate, which we cannot define, why not take the bold and honest course of annexing Egypt, which we have rescued from the grip of the Turkish pacha, and brought to her present state of prosperity? Everybody would be pleased, except the rabble of donkey-boys and students who are set on by the disappointed dregs of Turkish officialdom. The European residents would exchange the law of Capitulations and the Mixed Tribunals for British citizenship and British Courts of Justice. The fellahen don't care a rap who governs them as long as they are left in peace and security to garner their cotton and maize. British annexation would at once open Egypt to the capital of the world.

CRAFTSMAN OR HIRELING.

WHILE this may not seem a time to take an optimistic view of our industrial position, one may do well to consider the genesis and probable influence of a new movement of which there are indications, and which comes from the only direction in which one may look hopefully for a settlement. For this movement comes from within, from Labour itself, and as such is pregnant with possibilities.

Let us consider first Trade Unionism and its influence on the individual. On the one hand we have the labour leader, working for his fellows, yet not immune from the subtle influence of the amenities of life. He lives, and lives comparatively well, by his leadership, and the life is probably more congenial and profitable than that enjoyed by the most proficient of those whom he represents. His leadership being something to cultivate and safeguard, he labours for votes. Willy nilly, he works for standardization and general advancement.

On the other hand we have the worker, whose contribution towards the upkeep of leaders and Trade Unionism is comparatively small. He supports his leaders and his union in their efforts to obtain general betterment at little cost in money or thought. But he is now becoming increasingly alive to the narrowing of his life. He is conscious that his individuality is disappearing, that he is becoming a small cog in a large machine. Unconsciously his nature revolts. He may not be able to diagnose his sickness, yet he is a sick man, and alive to the fact. For sixty years, maybe, Trade Unionism has worked on the lines to which it still adheres, but nature has worked longer, and the ways of nature are antagonistic to those of Trade Unionism. Here we have the situation in a nutshell. Competition is a law of nature, and nothing will alter or affect it. Man is competitive, as we say, by nature, and all the trade unions in Christendom will never change him. Instinctively he seeks the prizes of life. Duffer or genius, his soul craves for self-expression, for a separate existence. This Trade Unionism denies him, and so we see the clearer sighted of our workers rubbing their eyes in doubt.

They are offered a living wage and are glad of it; pensions during unemployment and old age have a sedative effect; but more leisure leaves them little more content with their lot. Foolish Governments offer education, and even compel it so far as it is possible; yet lads dodge it. They "put in" the allotted hours in their working week, and their leisure is but boredom. A picture paper, cunningly and sensationably devised, is their literature; the watching of a professional football match or the wagering on the chances of unknown horses in unseen races their recreations.

Is it not natural that the clearer headed of our workers should jib? They see that they are exploited, not by a separate class, but by their fellows, who have the wit to shun the chains placed on their own lives. Each year their work becomes more mechanical and more monotonous. Their individual brains and skill are gradually depreciating in value, as compared with those polished and perfected in the open market. Trade Unions have denied them piece work, payment by results, or partnership participation in profits. They have, in effect, denied their members a natural life, competitive and progressive, knowing that such must revolutionise trade organisations and throw their leaders idle. Many see the situation which has arisen, and in recent months their number has so increased that there is a fear in the ranks of labour officials that they may be unseated, for the present minority of clear-sighted men might easily be converted into a majority by some untoward event, such as the recent railway strike might well have become, had it been allowed to continue.

Trade Unionism has depreciated the value of the individual. It fights for shorter hours and higher rates of pay, but it makes no effort to encourage skill. It says to a prospective employer: You shall pay our members so much for so many hours, but offers no guarantee of proficiency. It ignores craftsmanship, yet craftsmanship is the key to happiness. Trade Unionism breeds ignorance and inefficiency, and exists because of them. The driver of an electric tractor knows nothing of the controller he pushes mechanically from side to side, and he knows still less of the engine it controls. Nor does the man who made them know much more. He turns, slots and planes the metal given to him for the purpose, but of the why and wherefore he is ignorant. Men of an older generation were different. The wood-worker knew the wood he fashioned, he could tell at what season the tree was felled, in what circumstances it grew, and how the log was quartered to get a suitable grain. The metal-worker knew the alloys in his material, why one metal was softer than another, and the proper application of any. Malleable, forged, or wrought iron were things to be adapted to his needs. Both knew what they made and why they made it, as regards design, material and workmanship. They were in fact craftsmen, artists who enjoyed the work of their creation. Ignorant of Carlyle, they yet took pleasure and pride in their work, and the greater their skill and knowledge the greater was their success. The old guilds taught men their arts, and, having done so, left each to win the prizes of proficiency.

Now all that has gone, and mechanical output has taken its place, every worker bound by himself to a wage and an hour. Lord Leverhulme, the most acquisitive and industrious of workers, tells us that a six-hour day should suffice for any man. He preaches content, he advocates leisure, yet knows neither. Ignorant of their natures and traditions, he would transform the McLeods and Morrisons of Lewis into an industrial machine. He may make money, but he cannot make men, and it is probable that he will learn his lesson in the Hebrides. He and others of his kind see dividends through all their schemes for social betterment. They are right according to their light, but their light is dim. They want "hands," not men, and they create machines, and have no other use for art or craft. Lord Leverhulme may be astonished to hear that he unconsciously promotes industrial unrest.

Workers may be divided into those who live for their work, and those who work for a livelihood. As

time goes on the former become fewer if more successful, while the others constitute an ever-growing army of malcontents and let us bear in mind that the trend applies to employers and employed, if we may use the familiar distinction. Investors and administration call for output and dividends, not quality or perfection. Trade Unionism has driven individual enterprise from the field, both in their own ranks, and in those of industrious pioneers whose brains are the raw material of labour, and they are running their heads against granite. By levelling down and forbidding a free market for individual effort they are unconsciously lowering the standard of labour, rendering it more readily replaceable, and at the same time denying the right to work, interpreting that word in its better sense. It is gratifying to know that some are conscious of their chains.

MOLIERE AT THE DUKE OF YORK'S THEATRE.

WE believe it was the celebrated historian and scholar, Gaston Paris, who was inclined for some reasons to lament that Joan of Arc prevented the inauguration of an Anglo-French Empire at Rheims. Consider for a moment what a nation might have been reared upon that foundation. Think of a people combining the qualities of the French and English mind—French clarity united with English depth, French decisiveness with English caution, French thrift with English generosity, French intelligence with English insight, French sense with English sentiment, French honesty of mind with English idealism, French wit with English humour, the qualities of the best French prose with those of the best English poetry, the excellence of Anatole France with that of Robert Browning, or, what is more to the present purpose, the virtues of Molière united with those of Shakespeare. An impossible combination, you will object. As well desire the qualities of oil and water in one and the same fluid, a working partnership between Napoleon and Wilberforce, a reconciliation of the views of Burke with those of Jean Jacques Rousseau. Admittedly it would have taken time to fuse the French and English into one people, but common political institutions can work wonders. There is less reason why a Londoner should belong to a different mental civilisation from that of a Parisian than there is for an inhabitant of Boulogne belonging to the same civilisation as an inhabitant of Marseilles. The best English minds have rarely failed to understand and admire the best French minds. The obverse proposition is not so obviously true, because the French are in most things more insular than the English; their character is more of a single piece, and they less readily compromise with the stranger. French has become the cosmopolitan language of the world, not because the French are cosmopolitan, but because other countries have always been willing to adopt it. We have no doubt that, if England had annexed France in the fifteenth century, the English conquerors would have derived more advantage from the event than the French. The French would not have greatly changed; but the English would have assimilated what was best in French mentality, and they would have been vastly the better for it. That they would have lost their English character need not be considered. The English character has survived four conquests of England. It would assuredly have survived a conquest of France. If the successors of the Lancastrian Kings had been crowned at Rheims, we should have had in time a society able to appreciate both Molière and Shakespeare, and to produce more writers of the same kind. We need not be at all concerned regarding the loss or weakening of nationality implicit in our hypothesis. Nationalism is as bad for art as inbreeding is bad for families. The national art of Serbia flourished in Vienna; the national art of Ireland has always flourished in London; and national English art, as exemplified in the Elizabethans, or the Augustans or the Romantics of the nineteenth century, was thoroughly cosmopolitan.

But Joan of Arc occurred, perhaps unfortunately, to spoil the experiment; and at a later period Wellington and Blücher interfered to thwart a rather different solution. What Henry V and Napoleon failed to achieve in one way, the Anglo-French Society may bring about in another. The Society is producing at the Duke of York's Theatre a series of French plays which have so far proved more successful than any similar venture of the kind we can remember. They have begun with Molière, and they are proceeding shortly to Labiche and Beaumarchais. The play at present in the bill is 'Le Malade Imaginaire,' given at the Duke of York's theatre on Tuesdays and Thursdays. At the first performance it was received with an enthusiasm for Molière quite unprecedented in an English theatre. The audience laughed in the right places, not merely when Thomas Diafoirus tumbled from his outrageous, but entirely classical high stool, but also when the wit was almost wholly literary in character. It looks as though the war, which began as a war in defence of frontiers and has ended in the drafting of a peace which on paper plunges Europe back into the provincial era of her development, has also had the paradoxical effect of making some of the larger nations more cosmopolitan. All big wars have had cosmopolitan effects in the long run. Putting allies out of the question, you must know your enemy in order to beat him or comfortably to occupy his lands. The Crusades spread Arabic influences throughout Europe; and we have no doubt that, if we had to fight the Chinese for any considerable time, the ultimate result would be a spread of the wisdom of Confucius from London to Washington and an enormous increase in our appreciation of Chinese art.

We congratulate the Anglo-French Society on having chosen their moment well, also upon having secured so admirable a producer in M. Randall. From small indications in the production we gather that M. Randall favours as simple and as natural a treatment of Molière as is consistent with the French classical tradition; that he desires as far as possible to avoid gesticulation and grimace; that he likes to rely upon his text rather than upon traditional embellishments sanctified by custom. But the Comédie Française is not lightly to be set aside; and its traditions are as sacred in respect of Molière as are those of Bayreuth in respect of Wagner. Personally we should like to see M. Randall discarding tradition altogether and adapting his Molière to an age which has learned to attach more value to the written text than to the high stool and astonishing countenance of Thomas Diafoirus. To improve upon the traditions of the Comédie Française is an enterprise well within M. Randall's courage and ability. This, however, may, to the mind of a Frenchman, seem an act of sacrilege such as could only occur to an English barbarian; and it would certainly be doubtful policy to pursue in a production offered in London, where clearly the business of the stage must be played for all it is worth to cover the difference of language.

In 'Le Malade Imaginaire,' as in most of Molière's plays, there are the two elements of fantastical farce and sober wisdom, of extravagant burlesque and practical sanity. The two elements are well represented in the two principal players, M. Ougier and Mlle. Dormeuil. M. Ougier presents Argan with a clean-cut precision of outline, a dry finish, a moderation and good sense which is our Molière of the comedies exact and unadorned. His delivery of the opening monologue where he exhibits in turns his native shrewdness in the ordinary affairs of life (such as correcting the little bills of his apothecary) and his absurd credulity in the matter of his *idée fixe* is wholly admirable, and most of his performance is on the same high level of comedy. To Mlle. Dormeuil falls the livelier task of presenting us with the most impertinent of all the soubrettes of Molière. She brings into the play that element in Molière which tempts us to believe that Robin Goodfellow must have emigrated to France in the seventeenth century (to escape the Puritans) and have become naturalised as a citizen of Versailles. The rôle is long and exacting, and Mlle. Dormeuil is, we believe, almost an amateur upon the stage. Her performance

is astonishingly good. You could not find a clearer diction among the Berlitz professors; and her vivacity and confidence are fully equal to every occasion. She is a tradition, but she is undoubtedly alive.

The Anglo-French Society has begun well, and we wish it every success. We advise our readers to support it, not merely in the belief that they will thereby be assisting to promote friendship and understanding between the two nations, but simply from that intelligent self-interest which prompts us to look for our pleasures where they are most likely to be found.

THE BILLIARD CHAMPIONSHIP.

[BY AN AMATEUR.]

THE billiard season has opened with a certain storminess and more than one portent of unusual interest. During the very week, for example, in which the present champion was vowing that he would not obey the ruling of the authorities and "play through," he was failing to concede not only the promised 2,000 but any points at all in a match of 16,000 with Falkiner, and, indeed, was 4,030 behind at the end of it; and meanwhile, in another hall, the youngest of his rivals was making breaks of over 800.

To prophesy is a perilous pastime, as the newspaper turf experts (save the mark!) must by this time be beginning to realise, if such realisation is within their power; but we can always with safety remark that "we should not be surprised if . . ." and that I am prepared to go so far as to do. I should not be surprised if Inman had a very hard struggle to hold his position this season, and if in the season following he lost it. For there are some very dangerous players advancing upon him. I am not in his secrets (could anyone penetrate behind that inscrutable countenance?) but I should guess that his fear of Newman is at least as great as that of Falkiner. His contemporaries probably he considers lightly; Stevenson and Reece have shot their bolts: he has their measure. Reece he defeats before a ball has been struck, by sheer force of antipathetic and disquieting personality; while Stevenson fails against him, not because he is an inferior performer, but because he has too much of the artist's carelessness and disdain. Also, Stevenson is tired. But the younger men are not tired, and they are full of ambition, and the youngest of them, Newman, is always improving.

In his blank verse treatment of his novel, 'Cashel Byron's Profession,' Mr. Bernard Shaw makes the Admirable Bashville remark, "It is a lonely thing to be champion." Even more so must a champion be anxious, since his successor already exists, somewhere, and at any moment may emerge and prevail. In boxing this is peculiarly the case. The champions of the ring being liable to the briefest reigns, their anxiety must be constant. At the opposite extremes are such games as croquet and bowls, which are unruffled by challenges from Wales and America, and cricket, where pre-eminence can be maintained for years and years, as in the case of W.G., whose position time, for a very long while, only strengthened. Yet even "W.G." must have looked ahead now and then with a certain misgiving and regret. But a billiard champion to-day is without a moment's confidence and composure. John Roberts may have avoided care; but no one else can do so. And the younger generation never knocked at a champion's door so loudly as Newman and his brethren are now doing.

Although Newman was beaten by Smith by 912 points the other day, and although Falkiner actually walked away from Inman during the same fortnight, it is Newman that, before either Falkiner or Smith, I should pin my faith to as the coming champion. Why indeed Smith ever was ahead of him was a continual mystery. But, all going well, Newman's prospects are extraordinary. Although he is still only a boy, he is a master too, and he seems to have in a very special way the test-match temperament. Nothing moves him, either failure or success; at the end of a break of 800 his long placid face, so curiously unmarked by experience, shows no sign of pleasure, nor is there a trace of

petulance or impatience when an easy shot is missed. For all his youthfulness, his judgment is as remarkable as his dexterity. It is perhaps his judgment which most impresses the observer: judgment coming not from without, but from within. One can learn by painful and unceasing practice how to make strokes, but one cannot learn—absolutely—what strokes to make. Smith seems to me to lack Newman's instinct for billiards; his game is not so sound; and often during the recent match he was not hitting the second ball with any of Newman's beautiful accuracy and pace. Anyone can hit the first.

If there are physiognomists (and they are sanguine fellows) who have had the temerity to dogmatise on a fixed type as proper to billiard experts, a visit to Thurston's should have jolted them. For these two young players are as different as can be; Newman's head being long, almost equine, and Smith's perfectly round; Newman having little ears and Smith prominent; Newman being loose in build and Smith compact. Long chins possibly conduce to aptitude with a cue, for Newman's is most noticeable, and Diggle certainly has one, and it may be that another used to be concealed beneath John Roberts's beard. But, on the other hand, neither Inman nor Stevenson is remarkable in that feature. Where, however, all billiard players are alike is in their patent-leather boots.

LONDON.

IT will be a matter of interest to historians to reflect that before August, 1914, there existed partly in the county of Middlesex, and partly in that of Surrey a not inconsiderable city which went by the name of London. It was inhabited, they will learn with surprise, in part at least with residents within its ample bounds. It possessed both traditions and a manner. There were lanes, for example, such as those of Petticoat and Park which, sharing in a certain measure community of race and outlook, yet conveyed a definite impression. There were streets such as that called Fleet, which devoted itself, though historians may find this hard of acceptance, to discussing the affairs of the nation rather than the love affairs of the Night Club. There was, was there not? lit by balls of fire, as by Chinese lanterns, that Embankment where intending suicides mingled affably and with an air of completing a well-established ritual with supper-guests from neighbouring hotels. There were Queen Anne houses in Bloomsbury with fan-lights over their doors and delicate traced iron balconies. There were garrets in Fitzroy Street that had North lights which opened paradoxically on the South and Italy, catching a gleam from this or that old painter Michael called the Angel, or him they called Tintoretto. In Kensington they took care in their great houses to learn nothing and forget nothing; they remembered what a good place was Kensington Square, and they forgot the importance of being Sydney Webb. And Mayfair—in her little huddled streets of a failing greatness—impeccably remained a hostess of lost causes.

This was the Town called London. It possessed in addition to its streets what were known, because in those days they could be distinguished from the others, as public buildings. There was by the side of the Thames—then liquid history, as the Oldest Inhabitant called it, now liquidated history—the palace of St. Stephen's. This edifice, the historian will note, was regarded as the Seat of Government. In moments of enthusiasm it housed the Grand Inquest of the Nation with its Speaker as the Superb Coroner. It is still busy with inquests, but of a different order. There were in Whitehall public offices where persons carefully trained in the art of Government pursued their duties unhelped by the Press Agent in those times reserved for the Music Hall. There were theatres in which from time to time it was rumoured that serious plays would be performed. There were, but of this the historian will require proof, places of public worship. And there were Clubs which existed to prove how untrue it is that the British are an untalkative or exclusive race.

There were those buildings in the Town called London. There were also Gardens and Parks, called in order to prevent the intrusion of provincials, "lungs." Some of these Gardens were squares of green between houses, like lakes reflecting a dazzling green sky. These were railed off with locked gates, that availed, alas! how little against the benevolent ubiquity of the Y.M.C.A. hut. There was a Park called Hyde, that might still better have been called Jekyll Hyde Park. For here there rode in the mornings those who subsequently died in order that civilization might die with them. Here were fashion and beauty and parasols (in summertime) at noon, while at evening the Atheist, the Socialist and the Salvationist attempted to divert courting couples from pursuits that evening and the dark trees suggested. There was Kensington Gardens, but Sir James Barrie had already commandeered that. Occasionally, however, children forgot that it was their business to be sentimental and pathetic and touching, and played quite naturally at cricket and rounders. There were also two places called, because even heaven requires a name, Kew and Hampton Court. London came, as its poet bade, to Kew in lilac time, or found the tropics and strange islands where the tops of the palm-ferns can be seen, from the little gallery in the great glass-house. And at Hampton they ate their sandwiches either when the candles were lit in the great avenues of Bushey, or when in the long borders of the red palace roses burned all night through.

There were also in those days Londoners. There was, for example, the City, and the Citizen. Conscious of the burden of the world's credit, he wore his silk hat—a beacon of finance. He had heard of Wall Street, and somebody had even mentioned Canada in his hearing. But after all people must talk of something even in the City. And after a hard day's work, broken only by a couple of hours to discuss business over lunch, he caught the Underground at 4 p.m. There was also Whitechapel, but that we need not describe because the historian will find it grown universal. In August, 1914, however, it was possible to distinguish between say a barrister in good practice, and an East-end sweating tailor. There was then to be found that association of persons curiously called Society. Those of us who have grown to associate the word with the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, will perhaps forget how they lived in 1914. How right that butterflies and moths and gentlemen and ladies should disappear! How right and how satisfactory to find that the place of the Knights of the Garter has been taken by the Knights of the British Empire. Because, after all, we lost London in the interests of the Empire.

All this, as the historian knows, has gone. London at Christmas time was still resolute in its attempt to justify Dickens. What shopping in the snow! What fattened turkeys! What plum-puddings! What a warning against geniality! London was lit with her lamps, and her sky-signs in winter, or was lit with her own moon or the stars, "that God made specially" for her in spring and summer. She had to learn that bombs forbid light and war lightness.

This was London. The historian who sees the strange cosmopolis, hears the shrill voices of the new world, and observes its inhabitants will not believe us. But it is true. There was once such a City.

SIC ITUR AD ASTOR.

Plymouth, fit shrine of illustrated journals;
Cinemas, Cameras, Coalition Colonels,
Coalition Seamen, Coalition Clerics,
Hymn your hysterics.

Lo, sentimental Millionairess,
Thee, corybantic celebrates the Mayoress;
Thee, constellation brightening November,
Thee, returned Member.

Fine flower, first fruits of Ecclesiastusæ,
Proconsules te celebrant ac Musæ;
Mobile te (demobilised and raucous),
Te, too, the Caucus.

Triumph, St. Stephens, tired of its jetty coats,
Hails thy resplendent bodices and petticoats.
Fear nothing, auspice George or Mond-Alf or
Te duce Balfour.

And, if a special smoking-room relaxes,
Peerless, thy contests, spare us not the taxes!
Are we not building palaces for Labour?—
Sound pipe and tabor!

Hath not the Lord High Chancellor (says Rumour)
Somewhere his bath-room? Who'd begrudge a few
more?—

None but the Fair deserve the Brave. We've got to
This for our motto.

Ah Coalition! Everyone united,
Everyone reckless, everyone delighted!
Stand thou its emblem—Poll-ux atque Castor—
Imus ad Astor.

WALTER SICHEL.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE TIMES AND IRELAND.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—In the *Times* newspaper of December 1st, exactly underneath the account of the murder of Detective-Sergeant Barton in Dublin late last Saturday afternoon, appeared a paragraph from the Londonderry correspondent of that journal in which Mr. John MacNeill, the Sinn Fein member for Londonderry, is reported to have used the following words in addressing a meeting of his constituents the day before the murder:

"The people of Ireland were absolutely determined that the police of Ireland would be the servants of Ireland, and if there was any attempt to make them masters of the people responsibility for what followed was on the heads of those making it."

"What followed" next day was the fourteenth murder of an Irish policeman during the present year.

In the same issue of the *Times* newspaper appeared a leading article headed "Irish Peace in Danger," in which the murder of the previous Saturday was not mentioned, but in which the "fear" was expressed that "the Irish Executive are being used, whether with the connivance of members of the Cabinet or not, in order to arouse in Ireland a state of feeling, if not a state of rebellion, in which settlement may become impossible." If Mr. John MacNeill be a regular reader of the *Times* newspaper, this view of the situation should gratify him, coinciding as it does so nearly with his own.

I have not long returned from a tour of the whole of Ireland, from Belfast to Cork and from Dublin to Galway. I found nearly everybody in favour of Sinn Fein, and nobody able plainly to condemn the murders taking place. How far this inability arose out of sympathy, and how far it arose out of fear, I could not determine. I also found Sinn Fein to be by no means merely a corner-boy movement, but as conspicuously a middle-class one. A British officer I met at Claremorris further told me of a Roman Catholic priest who made a point of spitting on the path, whenever he passed a British officer; and the only places of worship in the country which exhibited the "Roll of Honour" so familiar in this country were those of the Church of Ireland and the Protestant Dissenting bodies.

Under all these circumstances the attitude of the *Times* newspaper towards Ireland and Sinn Fein (and implicitly towards the Royal Irish Constabulary and the Irish police generally and loyal people in that island) seems in incredible discord with its attitude towards the other enemies of England during the war.

Yours faithfully,

H. M. WALBROOK.

Authors' Club,
2, Whitehall Court, S.W.1.

JOHN BULL AND UNCLE SAM.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—While listening to the great oration delivered by the Earl of Reading at the Oxford Union last night, I was struck by the idea of a federal union between Great Britain and the United States of America. The Lord Chief Justice did not allude to the possibility of a federal union; but the Master of Balliol mentioned the ideal towards which Sir Cecil Spring-Rice always strove—the union of the two English speaking peoples, and the Earl of Reading emphasised the numerous features of resemblance between the two peoples. When we take into consideration the facts of a common origin, a common language, common ideals, a common outlook and a thousand other matters of common sympathy, it must surely strike any clear-headed Britisher or American as absurd that we should be as independent of each other as France and Japan. The great reception which has been accorded to the Prince of Wales in the United States is surely, in Mr. Churchill's words, "the true gauge of the recent tide of Anglo-American sentiments and sympathy," and sufficient evidence that the new world has not, despite its democratic enthusiasm, cast out from its national heart all sentiment and respect towards the venerable institutions of the old. The late Robert Hugh Benson prophesied in 'The Dawn of All,' that even America would own the sway of a constitutional monarchy, before the present century has passed away. Perhaps his romantic dream may yet be realised in a more glorious manner than even he anticipated. We have seen all around us, in recent years—particularly in Russia—the anarchic path which democracy may tread when unrestrained by any sentimental reverence towards lawfully constituted authority. Perhaps the Americans realise this; and perhaps in their inmost hearts they crave for a king who shall tower above the transitoriness of presidents and premiers in his appeal to the imagination of a people. If this is so—what better king could they choose than the heir of the king whose authority they rejected in the days of their national infancy? We have both made mistakes; it is by mistakes that rulers and peoples learn. Surely the lapse of a century and a half, with all the friendly advances which have recently been made between the two branches of our race, can suffice to bury the quarrel of the past in a grave of mutual forgiveness!

I feel that now is the time to move towards reunion. America and England have decided that they will never again fight against each other. The alliance between the two powers has drawn so close that, in Lord Reading's words, we can scarcely think of each other as different nations. Why then need we be different nations at all? The British Empire, as an experiment in federation, has shown the world of what marvels the federal system is capable. Why not carry the experiment a step further and include America? America could lose nothing; she would only stand to gain. She would not be required to abdicate one jot or tittle of her independence. She could still retain her presidential system of government; the only difference would be that her president would be a subject of King George, like the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the Viceroy of India. The Crown is the only bond which holds the heterogeneous elements of the British Empire together. Why should not the United States and Great Britain now reunite in a common allegiance to a common king? If this could be achieved, we would have taken a tremendous step towards the ultimate goal after which all true federalism should strive—the Federation of the World.

Yours faithfully,

THOMAS HOPE FLOYD.

Oxford, November 30th, 1919.

SIR,—May I echo the opinion of the *Chicago Tribune* that Americans and British get on best apart? In these days it is positively dangerous to suggest that our "ideals" are different, but it must be apparent to the great majority that our national conduct is diverse, and

that in many respects our racial character is fundamentally opposed.

If only the various Anglo-American Societies and the Anglo-American Press would realize that the more the two nations "get together," the less they like each other, they would cease the present disastrous methods by which they are turning indifference into active dislike.

To take two instances, trivial in themselves, occurring during the past week. Does the "English-speaking Union" really imagine that the British wish to "thank" the American forces for "the standard of conduct" that they "set" us, or that they like to have this done in their name, and does a portion of the Press imagine that it is promoting good feeling when we are advised in its columns to inter-marry largely with the Irish in order to get a manner more acceptable to the Yankees? This sort of thing is our daily diet at present, and it makes the British blasphemous.

Yours faithfully,

E. M. C.

The New Victorian Club,
30a, Sackville Street, Piccadilly, W.

LABOUR IN AMERICA.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—It will be interesting to watch the methods adopted in the United States to curb the direct action of their Trade Unionists.

That the U.S. Government sees the necessity of drastic measures will assuredly have the effect of tightening up the curb in this country and so prevent the combination of various Trade Unions from holding to ransom the British public.

It will be interesting to see the effect of prohibiting the application of Trade Union funds to the purpose which called them into existence, but there may be an alternative policy for this country to consider:

This is the stopping of any strike which is not carried by, say, a three-fourths majority by the whole body of the Trade Union in secret ballot.

This form of ballot was many years ago carried as a protection for the political voter against possible pressure being put upon him by his employer. Is it not now equally necessary to protect the working man who does not wish to strike against the firebrands of his fellow workmen, who are discontented?

It is well known that the higher skilled, the most industrious, the most thrifty and reliable working men are not consulted on the question of strikes. They do not attend the meetings, because they have little sympathy with the hot-headed men who have captured the machinery of the unions. True, they pay their subscriptions, but there is ample evidence that this is only to ensure a quiet life for themselves in the shop and for their wives and families in the street, which they cannot otherwise enjoy.

If the secret ballot were insisted on, the true wishes of the best section of the working classes would soon become evident, and the country would have some chance of the common sense of this important class asserting itself.

Yours truly,

X. Y. Z.

Carlton Club, Pall Mall, S.W.1.

A SCHEME FOR LABOUR.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—In your review, 'Trebling Production,' you state that "Labour is paid chiefly by time in England, and chiefly by the piece in America."

Will you grant me the hospitality of your correspondence columns to set out a scheme which I have submitted to the Ministry of Labour recently, and which I believe has proved of interest? Under my scheme, Labour will be divided into two categories (i) skilled and (ii.) unskilled.

As far as possible, a workman will be given the option of inscribing himself under either category.

All "skilled" will be restricted by law to piece-work contracts; the "unskilled" will be protected by law by a minimum wage and a maximum working week.

The minimum wage will be based on an index-wage to be periodically calculated on the current price of wheat, etc.; because the purchasing power of the pound sterling is a function of (i.) the supply of the necessities of life; (ii.) the population; (iii.) the world's gold output; (iv.) the acreage under cultivation.

This index-wage will vary, of course, in different seasons and in different centres of industry.

Its varying values will be published yearly, quarterly, or monthly, by the Ministry of Labour, in different parts of the country.

It would fluctuate, like the Bank rate, and would form a basis for all contracts between Labour and Capital.

Thus, under my scheme, an employer in, say, Leeds, on engaging an employee, would undertake to pay him the index-wage as fixed in Yorkshire, or the index-wage plus a percentage of the index-wage for a statutory week's work, say, one forty-eighth of the afore-said index-wage for every hour of overtime. No mention of money would appear in the contract, but the cash paid each week would fluctuate with the index-wage.

The "skilled" category would attract labourers of a more industrious temperament and might kindle the enthusiasm of the more ambitious.

Trade Unions should have their activities confined by law to economic functions; their usurpation of political power should be restricted to the uttermost; for instance, the agitation to obtain exemption from taxation for a class is a peril to the State.

The fundamental cause of the French Revolution was resentment at the existence of a privileged class which was exempt from taxation.

Yours faithfully,

HERVEY DE MONTMORENCY.

34, Clifton Hill, St. John's Wood, N.W.

THE LAW IN A NOVEL.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Mr. Rees, of whose detective story, 'The Shrieking Pit,' I wrote very favourably as a whole, is aggrieved because I described his trial scene as ridiculous. "The trial scene in the novel," he informs your readers, "is based on my own notes of an Old Bailey case in which the defence of *epilepticus furor* was pleaded, and in its procedure is almost a replica of the actual proceedings." There is, I fear, much virtue in that "almost."

Let me recall some of the surprising things which Mr. Rees must have witnessed at the Old Bailey, if his imaginary trial at the Norwich Assizes bore any real resemblance to the trial at which he himself was present. He saw a murder trial taking place within a fortnight of the perpetration of the crime, without, apparently, any preliminary inquiry having been held by a magistrate. The leading counsel for the prosecution knew so "very little about the case," notwithstanding its grave importance, that he had to rely upon the "spoon-feeding" help of his "cunning and crafty" junior, while "the Crown Solicitor"—a title quite unknown to English courts of justice—sat behind them "with so many volumes of judicial decisions and reports of test cases piled in front of him that only the upper portion of his grey head was visible above the books." Yet this book-bound being was always "ready to lean forward at the slightest indication and supply any points which were required!" The presiding judge so far forgot the traditions of the Bench that, although the question whether the prisoner killed the murdered man was the first and foremost point to be determined by the jury, he told them, in his summing-up, that "he did not think they would have much difficulty on that head, because, although the evidence was purely circumstantial, it pointed strongly to the accused."

Mr. Rees adds that "the trial scene and the legal portions of the book were read in proof and confirmed as accurate by the solicitor for the defence in the real case, and by another legal friend." I should be interested to learn what these learned gentlemen would be inclined to say of a judge who was guilty of such

an invasion of the province of the jury in a murder case. I would too, in all humility, direct their attention to an allusion to the Criminal Appeal Act on page 274 of the novel, and venture to ask whether the reference to section 4 of the Act is not a mistake that escaped their attention. Finally, I would inquire whether their sense of the ridiculous was not awakened when they found Mr. Rees describing the solicitor for the prisoner at this remarkable trial at the Norwich Assizes as belonging to "a firm so eminently respectable that they never rendered a bill of costs to a client until he was dead."

There are other absurdities in the legal portions of an otherwise excellent book to which, as one not unfamiliar with legal procedure, I might easily point, but the instances I have given will serve to satisfy your readers that I did not criticise the trial scene in 'The Shrieking Pit' without due cause.

Faithfully yours,

THE REVIEWER.

1 December, 1919.

PHONETIC SPELLING.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Your interesting note on "bureaucracy," (29th November, p. 503) raises the question of phonetic spelling, which prevailed largely in the days of Queen Elizabeth, and may yet come again. There are, however, two main difficulties in its adoption. One is that there is at the present day no fixed pronunciation of words in English, and consequently phonetic renderings by one man and another will differ, and thus be as difficult to understand as our present somewhat haphazard and chaotic spelling. The other difficulty is that with our present alphabet, ordinary persons innocent of phonetics can spell words in very different ways, and yet be confident that they are making an exact representation of them. Of course, the gentleman who spelt "wife" with the letters "yph," was an artist elaborating his skill and knowledge, but would not "yf" be natural, and who would recognise it at first sight as indicating the thing that makes a husband?

Yours faithfully,

CONSERVATIVE.

TWO PROPHETS.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Perhaps the following passages may interest your readers, as they have interested me, forecasting, as they do, certain phases of modern life which have been dealt with in your columns and elsewhere. The one is about 270, the other some 30 or 40 years old.

This is from Gracian's 'Art of Worldly Wisdom' (tr. by Joseph Jacobs):—

"Know to get your Price for Things. Their intrinsic value is not sufficient; for all do not bite at the kernel or look into the interior. Most go with the crowd, and go because they see others go. It is a great stroke of art to bring things into repute; at times by praising them, for praise arouses desire; at times by giving them a striking name, which is very useful for putting things at a premium, provided it is done without affectation. Again, it is generally an inducement to profess to supply only connoisseurs, for all think themselves such, and if not, the sense of want arouses the desire."

And this from Frederick Locker-Lampson's 'My Confidences':—

"Wondrous social and other changes will have taken place when my great-grandson writes his recollections. He will then tell you that the Archbishop of Canterbury may occasionally be seen in Piccadilly on the roof of an omnibus; that Devonshire House, kept by one Cavendish, has been converted into a dry-goods store on the American plan—indeed, so completely will our fine old feudal system have been uprooted, that a tramway will actually have taken possession of patrician Pall Mall and the classic ascent of St. James's!"

Your obedient servant,

H. O.

London, Nov. 30th, 1919.

AUSTRALIA AND THE ANGLO-IRISH FEUD.

[BY AN AUSTRALIAN.]

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—The *Times* continues, with a reiteration that becomes irritating, its campaign for "Irish Peace." In its issue of 17th November appears a long article as to the "blighting effect" of the Anglo-Irish Feud in the Dominions—and especially in Australia. The views expressed are those of "An Australian Correspondent"; they are certainly laid on with a thick brush, and would really be alarming were it not that they happen to be totally unrepresentative of Australian public opinion.

The writer of the present article has lived in Australia all his life and can lay claim (he hopes) to a better knowledge of Australian sentiment on the eternal Irish question than that of the *Times* "Australian Correspondent"—what is more, he makes bold to say that not ten per cent. of Australians share the views enunciated by the writer of the article in question. Australians are represented as "longing for a settlement"; it is stated, "with absolute confidence," that they would accept it as a "supreme sign of Britain's leadership"; a lurid picture is drawn of Dominion politics becoming "enmeshed in Irishism," of the younger "Irish-Australians" swinging "towards the left" of separatism; Great Britain is represented as standing "coldly aside" while the "newer feeling" (of separatism forsooth!) becomes "the prey of anti-British leaders like Archbishop Mannix or Mr. Ryan, ex-Premier of Queensland"; and, of course, there is the typical *Times* "touch" that the Dominions have discussed "very fully" the scheme which has appeared in the *Times* and it is naïvely alleged that the precious "scheme" has found "wide acceptance" by Australian public men and newspapers; even more naïvely it is stated that, while Australians look for a "real solution," they have no suggestions to offer as to methods, for they recognize that "they would not like Great Britain to interfere if any one of themselves found a district or a State demanding separation." This, of course, "gives the whole show away," and is about the only accurate statement as to Australian opinion in the whole article—moreover it furnishes a crushing reason why Australians should mind their own business and leave Britain to mind hers.

What is the average Australian "man in the street's" opinion on the subject of Home Rule?

First, it may be taken as generally true that he would like to see the Irish question settled amicably, but to represent him as "longing for a settlement" is absurd. The Australian has got quite enough troubles of his own to settle, without concerning himself overmuch about Old World problems. Moreover, he represents the persistent attempts of the Irish hierarchy in Australia to force the question to the front, and make it a vital question of domestic politics. He has a healthy contempt for Archbishop Mannix and his myrmidons, and does not easily forget the part played by that "astute anti-British leader," not only in the conscription campaigns, but in the efforts made by patriotic Australians to recruit, by voluntary effort, the ranks of the Australian Army, so sadly depleted by the great offensives of 1916-18. The encouragement given to slackers by the policy of "no conscription and no further recruiting," preached throughout the length and breadth of the land by this disloyal prelate, was stigmatised in no uncertain terms by the recognised leaders of the Roman Catholic laity: men like Mr. Justice Gavan Duffy of the High Court of Australia; Mr. Justice Heydon, President of the New South Wales Arbitration Court; Sir Thomas Hughes, formerly Lord Mayor of Sydney; and others. Sir Thomas Hughes, indeed, did not mince words, and, in a letter to the Sydney press, said that the Archbishop's utterances "filled every decent Australian with loathing and contempt."

Truth to tell, the average Australian is sick to death of the Irish problem, and is bored to tears by *Times* "schemes," and "Irish Race Conventions," and other stage managed effects. Is it only a rumour that Americans are beginning to be similarly affected by "the President of the Irish Republic?" Australians

want to be left alone to manage their own affairs, and they modestly concede the same right to Britain.

As to the *Times* statement that "the strongly dominant Dominion view" is that the quarrel should be ended by granting Ireland "that which she has always had a just claim to," one can only say that, so far as Australia is concerned, the Dominion view is nothing of the sort. The average Australian's idea of things is that if any country has done its best to bring the "Anglo-Irish feud" to an end, that country is England; also that, when Irishmen make plain to English statesmen what they do want, and what exactly is the thing that they consider they have "a just claim to," it will be time enough to use the cocksure language of the *Times* "Australian Correspondent."

The loose talk about the "Irish block vote"—the statement that it is "so substantial as to be almost dominant," and that "it defeated the conscription referenda"—is about on a par with the rest of the article; it is literally and absolutely untrue. Assertions are made that this "block vote" is estimated by party leaders "as 23 per cent. of the electorate," but not one shred of evidence is, or can be, brought forward in support of such assertions. So far as the conscription referenda are concerned, every intelligent Australian knows that they were defeated by majorities so overwhelming in all the States, except Western Australia, that to attribute their rejection to the influence of the "Irish block vote" is to display an ignorance of the real facts that is positively abysmal.

The sooner the *Times* realizes that Australians resent being used as a stalking horse for its latest journalistic "stunt" the better; meanwhile let it readjust its sense of proportion and realize the truth which—put brutally—is that the average Australian's interest in Home Rule is a purely academic one, and that he declines to be stampeded into the Northcliffe camp, no matter how loud the beating of journalistic tom-toms.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN HUGHES.

37, Castlebar Road, Ealing.

NO DEID YET!

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Obsessions die hard; one is therefore the more pleased to observe signs of grace in Mr. Frank Adkins his letter. Whether actuated by the welcome accorded to Brother Pussyfoot, or out of sheer self-research, his conclusion, that "Whosoever is deceived thereby (sc. alcohol) is not wise," so jumps with saner argument as to be an occasion for rejoicing. Of course, the wise man does not suffer himself to be "deceived"; and, though he may not be one of Mr. Adkins's "millions," he has read his Bible, and, "for his stomach's sake," does not reject the grape, nor forgets to be thankful. We recommend such a course to Mr. Adkins.

Faithfully yours,

CREDE EXPERTO.

30th November, 1919.

PRINCE OF WALES' WAR RELIEF FUND, ETC.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—This and other well known funds collected many millions for the relief of war sufferers, but nothing has been heard of the application of these sums; at least I have met no one who has heard of a single needy case which has had support from these sources, while there are many in dire circumstances directly attributable to the War and to War bereavements. We see no reason to doubt that wise distributions have been made, but the public gave the money, and would like to hear a little as to where it has gone.

I ventured a communication on the subject to the Northcliffe press a short time ago, but the matter was deemed beneath notice, and no answer was vouchsafed; so I turn to your impartial columns for an elucidation.

Yours cordially,

ARTHUR J. R. FRASER TAYLOR.

42, Selborne Road, Hove.

REVIEWS

A NEW STAR.

Responsibility. By James E. Agate. Grant Richards. 7s. net.

BEFORE a new writer can be admitted into the place reserved for the very few his claims must be examined with patience and severity. He must not only see things with his own eyes and record them in his own way, but the things seen must be worth seeing and the method equally worthy. He must give the world, which it is always seeking, a new presentation of itself, what will justify the belief that there is still something worth having or losing in life. Provided new work has these characteristics, a writer can be judged on quality without quantity. Jean Ingelow takes her place on Olympus with her single poem about the High Tide on the Lincolnshire coast beside, say, Dickens with his torrent of achievement. We are prepared, therefore, for reasons which we propose to advance, on 'Responsibility' alone to suggest that in Mr. Agate a new and permanent addition to real literature has arrived. For the sake of perfectly unjustified curiosity, we should have liked to know more of Mr. Agate himself. Not that we believe that the private history of an author is in the least important except to himself and his friends. But when such a portent as Mr. Agate swims into the skies—a star somewhat obscured, but none the less in our view—a star of the first magnitude—Aldebaran among our pasty twinklers—we should like to know for the future of English literature whether he is a young man, or in middle life. The teller of the tale—Edward Marston—speaks in a pleasant vein of anecdote of the days "When those tremendous initials G.B.S. first growled and thundered in the pages of the SATURDAY REVIEW. Wilde had not tired of confounding peacockery with prose and the giant Wells was stirring in his sleep." This, if it is not fiction, should make him mature, but his book does not support this view. The genius of the book might as well be a grown man's as a boy's—it is ageless as genius always is. But the faults—and they are grave—are a young man's, or at any rate a young writer's, faults. His characters, for example, blaze into sudden life and then disappear, so that at the end of the book there is a crowd rather of wonderful ghosts than people. There is a terrible breakdown in the middle, when for about 50 dreary pages a young men's club devote themselves to really second-rate metaphysics. We can hardly believe that any man in middle life could still keep that glow for pure thought which alone excuses amateur dabs at the problems of cognition. The middle-aged man either takes his philosophy seriously, or puts it by.

There are, moreover, two other serious flaws in the book both indicative of the young man. There is a remarkable letter written by the hero's father to be read after the father's death. The father, a cotton spinner in a small Lancashire town, writes in a manner that Montaigne might not have despised, but which is wholly inconsistent with a life devoted to the production of cotton. Similarly when the hero's son, born of a fugitive attachment, appears to his father in middle life he speaks as one trained in the arts of thought rather than in misery. This does not prevent the account of the relations between father and son being as beautiful as delicate, but it has both the beauty and delicacy of youth that is still shy with life. For these reasons we should plump for Mr. Agate being, say, in the early thirties. We profoundly hope that we are right, because we want many more books from him. We do not ask for them to confirm our judgment, but because English literature is starvingly in need of a new and still young first-rate performer.

This being said, it is necessary to examine the book seriously for which we have made so considerable a claim. The story is summed up in the quite startling introduction by the author as follows:—"It consists of a sorry hero, a mistress adored and abandoned, and a son. . . . It does not end conclusively as

a well-thought out symphony of life should end. It does not go down in gloom like the pathetic Russians.

If you urge me to a comparison, I would say an apotheosis of Don Quixote—heavens! how high we fly—with a hint of Till Eulenspiegel. . . . Illegitimacy's my theme, the slur of illegitimacy—oh, not the slur on the child—but the slur on the father."

This, it will be admitted, is stimulating stuff, and unlike much self-valuation by authors, good criticism. The introduction happily gives the key to the values of the book. Edward Marston, the hero, writes it to get back on those readers of books who begin by reading the end. In this case the introduction is the end, because the hero, lying wounded in the base-camp, finishes the story by explaining that for the rest of his life he proposes to enjoy a filched pleasure in his restored illegitimate son, the son whom he never saw till the boy turned up on his way to the war. The introduction is full of meat, a rapid exposition of the likes and dislikes of a man with an unusually rich and sensitive spirit. And the true note of the writing is reality. He sees and understands himself just as squarely and simply as he admires and understands Mr. Arnold Bennett—"I would rather have written three of the four parts of *The Old Wives' Tale* than have been mayor of each of the five towns"—delights in beautiful words, and revels, for instance, in "trumpet orchid"; sees through and into the war without sentimentality, yet with feeling; and above all appraises and confronts life, by which he means the things he himself has lived at first-hand.

From the introduction we come to the story proper. It is fair to say that both the introduction and the story are coloured, though never dominated, by the great writers whom Mr. Agate adores. G. B. S., for example, growls in his introduction, but the growl is not the deliberate impudence of self-concealment. Mr. Agate uses his introduction to reveal himself, though the fashion, and in a sort the wit, have an air of the Irishman. Again the realists are always knocking at his mind. Above all, he is in love with Balzac. His young men cannot be done adoring and worshipping the Frenchman. They are all Balzicians at Crawley Bridge, which makes many of them fools, but it makes Mr. Agate wise. He learns from his hero to look at what happens instead of what ought to happen according to theory. His people owe to 'Cousine Bette' and the rest a sort of loyalty as to members of the same immortal family, but members equally authentic, though born later. Mr. Wells and Mr. Bennett of English writers have clearly made a mark for Mr. Agate. But he uses them, as he uses life, to show him his own mind, and not somebody else's theories. He is of their school in a sense, but we shall be surprised if some day he is not placed head of the class.

The story begins with uncle Reuben Ackroyd—my mother's brother—for fifty years the leading citizen of Crawley Bridge. Reuben is a Manchester cotton-merchant who conceals under a Puritan exterior a fiendish passion for gain, and relentless will to crush all that crosses his path. Mr. Agate gives us in Reuben what he calls the "cocasse." The French word permits us to give him a Balzacian elevation. He is a large horrible type that will endure. Edward Marston is left by his father as his uncle's ward till the age of 25, then to receive a small fortune and a partnership. The life of Crawley Bridge is described with growing clutch through apprenticeship in various mills and to love with Amy Dewhurst—a passing, charming fancy—till the young men's club is reached. Here we come upon a disastrous wilderness of metaphysics and sociology. It would have ruined any other book, and with this book one merely feels puzzled, as when one discovers that one's best friend has a sore throat. It is a nuisance—but we imagine that some day he will recover his voice. From this episode we come to the love affair with Clare, ending with the interview with Clare's mother, who declares, "I don't ask you to marry my daughter and you will not ask me to receive you on any other terms. . . . I ask you to break off your relationship. Think seriously, Mr. Marston, you are dealing in a human life."

Mr. Marston thinks seriously, is cheated out of his partnership, and goes to London and authorship. Many, many years afterwards to him in London appears the sort. The parable is reversed. It is the father who is the sinner, the son who is called upon to forgive. Not less beautifully than the Bible father does the Lancashire son kill his best for the sinner—his old memories and his old angers against the deserter. It is a new picture in literature, and for that reason perhaps, as well as for its simplicity, remains in the mind like music.

'AIM STRAIGHT.'

Fifty Years in the Royal Navy. By Admiral Sir Percy Scott. Murray. 21s. net.

THIS book inevitably sends one back to Lord Dundonald's 'Autobiography of a Sailor.' During the greater part of his long life, that indomitable man hammered at closed doors to get an invention accepted, whereby he hoped to revolutionize warfare, if not to render it impossible. That idea, as we now know—thanks to 'The Panmure Papers'—consisted of sulphur volatilized by coke and operating behind a smoke-screen. As it had no motive power other than variable winds, it would, in all probability, have disappointed its sanguine projector. Still it was worth a trial, and that trial it never got. Sir Percy Scott has been luckier than Lord Dundonald in that most of his devices have been ultimately adopted, one of them, director firing, just in time for the battle of Jutland. Still he has endured so many official snubs; he has had to submit to so many mortifying delays, and so many of his plans have been "turned down" altogether, that he cannot be blamed for converting the Admiralty into a well-battered literary target. We can well understand his sympathy with Admiral Sims, who, when a junior officer, committed the grossly insubordinate act of sending to President Roosevelt a duplicate copy of a report on the gunnery in the United States Fleet which the authorities at Washington had ignored, and so got a hearing.

Sir Percy Scott has been well-advised in taking "Aim Straight" for his motto. The improvement of naval gunnery has been his life's aim, and he has been justified by his works. Thanks to him, Whale Island has been converted from a mound of mud into a gunnery school; and he tells a good story of how he brought about its draining and levelling by constructing a cricket pitch in the middle, and then leading their Lordships "up to it, ankle-deep in muck." But Sir Percy's services to his country were rendered rather afloat than ashore. Though he somewhat exaggerates the state of affairs, there can be no doubt that when he entered the Navy, too much attention was paid to "housemaid" the ships, and too little to gun-practice. As commander of the *Scylla* and afterwards of the *Terrible*, he accomplished a maritime revolution. The percentage of hits rose enormously between 1897 and 1907, from some 30 to some 80 per cent. of rounds fired, and both the targets and the sights were vastly improved through his experiments. Thanks to the keen insight of King Edward, a genuine spirit of competition was introduced into the Navy, and Admirals no longer went ashore when battle practice was on, nor did Commanders venture to dump their ammunition into the sea. Sir Percy always kept an eye on the Germans, and we read that on his visit to Kiel, in 1905, where he "was never asked the same question twice," Prince Henry of Prussia made a mystery of their range-finder, but—"I did not want to see their range-finder. I had tried it and condemned it. Zeiss, the maker, always brought his inventions to us before taking them to the Germans." Altogether, Sir Percy Scott's shrewdness and industry are infinitely to his credit. What he fails to see, however, is that the Admiralty, with a jealously limited sum to spend (except in wartime), cannot be expected to grasp with both hands every notion that is offered to its notice. More excusably he ignores his own testiness of disposition and inability to work with others, though his readers will have no difficulty in guessing at them from more passages in his autobiography than one.

The famous letter to the *Times* of June 4, 1914, indicating the submarine danger in no uncertain terms, inevitably comes in for summary. Here again, Sir Percy, as usual, was right, and his critics wrong. But what a typhoon of expostulation it created! We get, of course, the inevitable Lord Sydenham opining that "on the high seas the chances of the submarine will be few." Yet the long-distance U boats made things uncomfortable for American shipping in its own harbours. He of *The Observer* sagaciously remarked: "Submarines can be shadowed until compelled to rise, and then they are doomed." Otter-hunting could not be simpler. Mr. H. W. Wilson suggested that "A submarine cannot in any case do her work without the support of surface ships." Unfortunately the Germans preferred the support of the snug ports of the Schleswig and Belgian coasts. And so it was, the submarine being regarded as "a clever scientific toy," that we entered into the war with unprotected harbours, no rams on our trawlers and destroyers, and an alarming shortage of surface boats, and that no satisfactory depth-charge was produced until 1916, though, if Sir Percy Scott is right, three designs were simultaneously resting in Admiralty pigeon-holes. When he said, "Good night" to Lord Jellicoe at Scapa, he added, "Shall we be here in the morning?" The laconic reply was, "I wonder."

Apart from opinion on professional matters, the narrative of these recollections is rather unequal. We get too much of "The Mayor in proposing the toast of 'Our Guests' referred," etc., and "In reply I said," etc. On the other hand, Sir Percy Scott, when he has the wind with him, sails pleasantly through such exploits as the mounting of 7-ton guns against Arabi Pasha, an anticipation of the historic sending up of the 4.7 to Ladysmith. Londoners, too, will be interested in what he has to divulge about the defence of the capital against Zeppelins, and the cordial co-operation of the French in the loan of their "seventy-fives." We wish, however, that he would not persist in calling General Gallieni "Galliene." It is when he "gets the wind up," that Sir Percy Scott becomes exasperating, and he shows throughout a tendency to use more cordial terms of Army officers than of those of his own profession. Now that Lord Beresford is dead, he need not have revived an ancient squabble, and at least he might have made clear what it was all about.

A GREEK TRANSLATION.

The Choruses from the *Iphigenia* and the *Hippolytus* of Euripides. Translated by H.D. The Egoist. 2s. 6d. net.

THE need of translations which recapture something of the spirit of the original writer increases with each year. Few can hope to read with ease more than three or four languages, yet it is of vital importance to modern development that all literature should be open to its thought. But many minds, trying to express a foreign or an ancient mood, blur the lines with their own individuality, or by the borrowed feelings of a different day.

The Choruses from the *Iphigenia* and the *Hippolytus* of Euripides are an attempt to recreate, as simply and as clearly as possible, the actual spirit, the actual vision of the poet and his time. There is no trace of that common fault of translations, the enlargement of five Greek words into four lines of English. Not a word is used that is not vital to the meaning and the rhythm, not a picture is evoked that is not definitely Greek. It is perhaps a pity that the book is not larger; it would be interesting to read the choruses from the 'Ion' side by side with the 'Hippolytus,' to be able to compare the sea-poems of the 'Iphigenia in Tauris' with the race of Achilles and the chariot, the loveliness of the ships. But years of work and study must have gone to the making of the volume; only a mind that was poetic as well as scholarly could have kept so vividly in English the sharpness of the Greek.

The choruses from the 'Iphigenia in Aulis' are bright with the sea; they are rich with the childhood

of Greece, the childhood the warriors remembered as they feasted in sight of Troy. It is hard to quote, for each section is but one in a set of pictures (or a frieze come to life); and something of the movement must be lost, if a few lines are jerked from the frame of the whole poem. But these lines from the second chorus are beautiful:—

"Paris came to Ida.
He grew to slim height
Among the silver-hoofed beasts.
Strange notes made his flute
A Phrygian pipe.
He caught all Olympos
In his bent reeds.
While his great beasts
Cropped the grass,
The goddesses held the contest
Which sent him among the Greeks."

The choruses from the 'Hippolytus' are more powerful and mature; they are poems of an archaic land, darker and wilder than Greece. The spirit of storm breathes through them, the rage of wind among great forests, wresting off long branches, uprooting the wood violets, and piling them alike in ragged heaps upon the grass. Perhaps the third is the finest section, where the nurse would comfort Phaedra, in a moment when all sympathy is vain. The heavy repression of the first part changes, grows fiercer, the boundaries of consciousness break into savage rebellion, into the wild

"Ai, ai, to drink deep
Of spring water
From its white source;
Ai, ai! for rest—black poplars—
Thick grass—sleep."

How shall words calm this despair; what is sleep when there is waking to be faced?

"Take me to the mountains!
O for woods, pine tracts,
Where hounds, athirst for death,
Leap on the bright stags!
God, how I would shout to the beasts
With my gold hair torn loose;
I would shake the Thessalian dart,
I would hurl the barbed arrow from my grasp."

Terror and desire mount in a hurricane—flames of a palace, hatred, the evil of life—mount and shrink back into the empty and exhausted crater of thought, until the fifth chorus—wind over ashes—lifts into a cry for the freedom even a Greek could not know. In the final poems terror softens into peacefulness, there is no fear of lightning on the hills, both the storm and the beauty of the storm are dead. And the book is closed with no feeling of disappointment that the clarity and vividness of the Greek words have been lost.

FICTION FOR FLAPPERS.

The Widening Circle. By the Marchioness Townshend. Eveleigh Nash. 7s. net.

LADY TOWNSHEND belongs to the Garvice school of novelists, which, if she writes for money, is the best school to belong to. Reality, or even probability, counts for nothing in novels written for flappers, male and female, for shop girls and errand boys. In fact, the Garvician novel seems to sell well in the inverse ratio of its relation to the world as it is: but it does sell by the million, and that is the main point. It is hardly necessary to add that the Garvician novel is always devoted to the capture of a husband by a maid.

Lady Townshend has very wisely gone in for dualism; that is to say, she plays two young maidens on her stage, the one prudent and calculating, the other romantic and disinterested; and both succeed miraculously. They are the two daughters of a gambling financier, who makes and loses fortunes. Margaret, the younger, the calculating one, hankers after a root in the country, and marries a peer old enough to be her father, with fifty thousand a year, and a "stately home" full of tapestry, old oak, pictures, plate, etc. She preaches much sober philosophy to her elder sister,

who is an idealist, and inclined to dabble in mysticism, religious and necromantic, and walks about Kensington Gardens with an elderly General. This young lady meets a fair young man in a forest, who says he has seen her at the Coliseum, and immediately claims her as his wife. He turns out to be a German Prince, cousin to a King. In order to be under the same roof with his love, he shoots himself in the shoulder with his shot-gun, is carried into the house, and on his death-bed, for the wound turns out worse than he intended, is married to Elizabeth. He, however, recovers after the ceremony: is surrounded by Royal relatives: is offered the alternative of renouncing his bride or his principedom, and of course becomes plain Mr. Anthony. Of such incredible nonsense is this tale made up. Lady Townshend must be a careless observer, or her orbit of experience has been different from ours; for we have not noticed that elderly peers appear at the tea-table in bath slippers, or that German princes speak English in such a manner as to conceal their nationality. But details of this kind don't matter to the readers of the Garvician romance.

A SCOTCH DETECTIVE STORY.

Simon. By J. Storer Clouston. Blackwood. 6s. net.

MR. Clouston is in a different class from the average purveyor of mysteries. He always writes well, has a sense of humour, and develops a pleasing taste for Scottish scenery and character. But he runs the risk of losing readers by the leisurely way in which he lays out the preliminaries to the mystery which is his main business. "In medias res" is certainly good advice for a detective story. The writer should, as Horace says, "hurry to the crisis." Here the book has 319 pages, and the baronet is not murdered until p. 82. Mr. Clouston's preliminaries and explanations are too extended, as we have already remarked.

The main idea of the mystery is not novel—at the present date few ideas of the kind are unexplored—nor do the proceedings of the villain strike us as very credible. Mr. Clouston's last book was better in this respect. This one, however, is quite agreeable, because it is well written. We think the author might succeed with a comedy of manners and criminals of a more subtle type.

THE POST-WAR GIRL.

Cousin Philip. By Mrs. Humphry Ward. Collins. 7s. net.

MRS. Ward is not usually at her best in what publishers and some sections of the reading public rejoice to call "a pretty love story." The vagaries of a beautiful and not over rational maiden, surrounded by a swarm of eligible adorers, and her unreciprocated preference for a middle-aged cousin encumbered with an undesirable wife (whose existence is unknown to the world), are not the themes which, in the absence of any religious or political interest, would seem adapted to display her powers. Yet from these and suchlike materials, with the assistance of some reflections on the girl of the period and modern unrest, she has constructed a novel which even the jaded reviewer reads with pleasure. Her outlook on life is decidedly more cheerful than in the days of 'Marcella' and 'David Grieve,' and the characters she presents to us, though moving in circles more or less exalted, are nearly all decent people with some principle and sense of duty. Helena Pitstone, the heroine, is a good-

hearted and generous, if rather an overpowering young person; her worst eccentricities being, in our opinion, easily traceable to the influence, posthumous and otherwise, of her much-lauded mother. An invalid's selfishness in thwarting the natural aspirations of a healthy and spirited child admits, no doubt, of some excuse. But we can see none for continuing the process by testamentary disposition; especially when the aspirations in question take a form so respectable as the desire for a University education. We lean to the Philistinish and pedagogic view that three years of steady plodding, sometimes against the grain, would have brought more benefit to Helena's soul than an existence of flirting, dancing, and bridge-playing, varied by farcical French and drawing lessons, given in one case by an Englishwoman, in the other by an amateur. From an author so much in the movement, we accept as the latest note in art decoration that "stand of stuffed humming-birds" which adorns Helena's boudoir. We welcome the thoroughly up-to-date suggestion that she may hereafter be drawn to adopt the *métier* of preacher. But we feel profound sympathy for that unlucky hostess, a victim to the forces of reaction, who, after inviting a young lady to bring "her partner" to a ball, finds herself obliged to put up with a maternal chaperon in lieu of a dancing male.

CONVENTIONAL ROMANCE.

The Blue Cloak. By Halliwell Sutcliffe. Ward Lock. 6s. net.

ONE can always be sure, in opening one of Mr. Halliwell Sutcliffe's books, that one will catch a breeze from the moors or the scent of country lanes. Even to so familiar an incident as the ride of a runaway couple to Gretna Green, with which his latest story opens, he can impart an agreeable sense of the open road. 'The Blue Cloak,' however, is hardly one of his most successful effects. There is plenty of incident, especially when the fortunes of his hero and heroine become connected with the Stuart rising, but the thrill of adventure is lacking. The characters are much too conventional to be interesting—not even excepting a town-bred knight who, having played the villain in the earlier part of the tale, becomes something of a hero before it reaches its close. These unreal folk seem all the more unreal because Mr. Sutcliffe—whose style has a touch of preciosity—makes them talk as he himself has learned to write. Westmorland squires and their ladies can hardly have conversed in a sort of blank verse without realising that they were not exactly talking prose.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS.

MESSRS. Blackie have provided for the nursery at Christmas as usual, though they have not discovered a new Mother Goose, Perrault or Hans Andersen. In their neat little 'Children's Diary' (1s. 6d. net), which allows for one line of handwriting per day, there are three verses on 'Children's Books,' the moral of which may be laid to heart:

"While the cheery embers burn,
Barrie bring, Defoe or Verne;
When the firelight's growing dim,
Seek Hans Andersen or Grimm."

Children know a great writer, though assuredly they know not how or why he is great. They like something hard to understand, which will serve to try their teeth on. In our judgment, many of the books before



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us have been too severely peptonised to suit the infant digestion. There is a good show of the favourite old subjects, however. The 'Sleeping Beauty' (10d. net) and 'My Nursery Story Book' (2s. net) are in admirable type, and amply illustrated; the pictures, moreover, occupy each a page apart, and are not mixed in with the letterpress, a custom which is very unpopular in nurseries, as tending to confuse the already strenuous task of deciphering the text. The publishers' part, in short, is admirably done, but the editing of the stories might be better. Modernised, they are not nearly so credible! And if we, the truly orthodox, cannot believe them when thus shorn of their glamour, what will the young Gnostics of our nurseries say?

Books for four or five year-olds are 'Little Ones' Book' (3s. 6d. net) and 'Bingo and Babs' (6s. net). The illustrations are numerous and rather elaborate; a touch of the Cubist would not be out of place here. The 'Children's Annual' would do for people of eight or nine.

The coloured illustrations of 'Where the Dolls Lived' (S.P.C.K., 4s. 6d. net) and 'Bring-Brother' (4s. net) are admirably distinct and clear. They are by a Chinese artist, and are charming in their delicacy of touch. Admirable also are the spirited black and coloured silhouettes of 'Cinderella' (Heinemann, 7s. 6d. net). They are by Mr. Arthur Rackham, and we need say no more; they will be the delight of many young copyists. This book gives the story of Cinderella at full length, and is quite an ideal Christmas gift.

Books for school boys and girls are 'The Treasure of the Isle of Mist,' by W. W. Tarn (Philip Allan, 6s. net), the story of a treasure hunt among the islands of the Hebrides, complicated by the fairy element. These fairies are not convincing, and the reader is inclined to support the practical view of "the Urchin," who only wishes to see ghosts and fairies because "they would be splendid to throw stones at. It wouldn't hurt them."

Messrs. Blackie have several of such books at 5s.: under the name of G. A. Henty, there is an exciting Red Indian story of the 18th century, 'True to the Old Flag,' and Lieut.-Col. Brereton gives a story of the great war, 'With the Allies on the Rhine.' Two schoolgirls' stories are 'Impossible Peggy' and 'A Harum Scarum Schoolgirl,' by Angela Brazil and Dorothy Russell. The latter is the story of an American child dropped into an English boarding school. Peggy, an extremely unpleasant young lady of ten, arrives from Australia with her brothers at an old English manor-house to live with their grandparents, and begins by borrowing the carriage horses without leave for barebacked rides across the country.

MUSIC NOTES

PIANOFORTE RECITALS.—The duldest month of the year is invariably, in a musical sense, one of the busiest, and the November just past was made particularly so by a rush of recitals the like of which has not been recorded since the name was invented. A good many were given by vocalists, but by far the larger number by pianists, of whom there are quite an extraordinary quantity endeavouring to bring their talents under public notice. Again, one or two, like Mr. Norman Wilks, are seeking to renew a reputation gained before the war, and in his case the claim may fairly be allowed that it deserves extension as well. It is not merely his technique that has improved, but his tone has a greater depth and richness than when he was last heard in London; while his interpretations are thoughtful, expressive, and marked by a classical breadth that denotes the matured artist. Mr. Wilks promises another interesting programme at Wigmore Hall on the afternoon of the 17th inst.

Mr. Egerton Tidmarsh rather handicapped himself by choosing for a first recital so large a place as Queen's Hall, which is difficult for all but popular favourites to fill. But those who went to hear him paid no heed to the empty seats and were amply compensated for their trouble by the display of sound pianoforte playing that Mr. Tidmarsh provided them withal. We do not care for organ or violin transcriptions on the piano as a rule, but he made the most of Busoni's arrangement of the Bach Chaconne, and would have done even better than he did with Benjamin Dale's fine sonata but for the ill-luck of breaking one of the strings of his instrument. In his place we fancy that most pianists would not have persevered, but have stopped altogether till the noisy intruder had been removed. Curiously enough Mr. Tidmarsh seemed in no wise disturbed by the accident, and played on with characteristic energy until he had

finished. On the whole he made it a pleasure to listen once again to Mr. Dale's sonata, bringing the many beauties of the work into clear relief.

Miss Winifred MacBride wound up her series of three piano recitals at the Wigmore Hall in a fashion that left behind a definite sense of her abilities and also of her limitations. The former comprised many excellent qualities, both natural and acquired, of mechanism and touch and sense of rhythm. The latter concern the viewpoint of the artist, her breadth of conception, her depth of romantic feeling; and in these respects it may be that experience will bring Miss MacBride a fuller development than her playing yet reveals. But that it has poetic charm her rendering of Schumann's 'Kreisleriana' at this recital abundantly proved. Time and work should do the rest.

MR. GATTY'S EXTRAVAGANZA, 'PRINCE FERELON.'—Some day we hope to hear a good opera from the pen of Mr. Nicholas Gatty. He has the gift of writing effective and fairly original tunes. He harmonises and orchestrates well; and he knows something of the subtle art of characterization. All he needs now is a first-rate libretto, which, we are quite aware, is really the *crux* in these cases. Meanwhile fresh evidence of his fitness for the task is forthcoming in the lively and clever little extravaganza in operatic form which he produced and conducted at Miss Florence Etlinger's School on four days last week. 'Prince Ferelon' might be more witty, but it pokes fun sufficiently to be piquant and amusing; and it certainly provided a useful experience for all concerned. Such experiences are half the battle for the musician who would write a successful opera. It can have been no easy matter to achieve such creditable results with material that consisted chiefly of amateurs and pupils of a training institution. The principal exception was Miss Gladys Moger, the well-known concert vocalist, whose performance every paper has described as "charming." And so it was, but if she too would go in for opera she must take great care that amid the cares of acting her voice does not lose its natural sweetness and steadiness.

A VIOLINIST AND SOME SINGERS.—Miss Jelly d'Aranyi won golden opinions from more than one "hardened critic" at the well-arranged concert which she gave at Wigmore Hall last week. She is a violinist and an artist of exceptional calibre; she has poise and authority in addition to technical skill of a high order, and plays Bach with a lovely tone. In some Variations on a theme of Joachim, written for her by Dr. Ernest Walker, her clear, bold style enhanced the interest of the music not a little. But even greater was her success in introducing "Two English Dances" by Edward D. Rendell, so clever and effective that they ought not to remain long in manuscript. The first of these dances, described as an "Anonymous Air," is quite a gem in its way and fully deserved its encore. The Bruch Dances that followed sounded dull and uninspired by comparison, though through no fault of the player, who is obviously sensitive to the spirit of the music that she plays and finds a limited measure to awaken her in Max Bruch. Miss d'Aranyi must now be heard with orchestra.

Miss Dorothea Webb, an agreeable singer with a pleasant mezzo contralto voice, gave an attractive programme recently at the Aeolian Hall and showed herself thoroughly at home on the concert platform, a sense of ease attributable largely to excellent breath-control. Her enunciation is, however, lacking in distinctness, and many words in her songs we quite failed to understand. Noteworthy in her selection was Dr. Charles Wood's fine setting of 'Ethiopia Saluting the Colours,' but although Miss Webb sang it with intelligence and insight, it was not really well suited to her voice. Miss Ella Ivimey was as usual an admirable accompanist.

Miss Carrie Tubb and Miss Lena Ashwell gave their last recital of the season on Friday afternoon before a large audience; and in the evening at the same hall Mme. Châtelaine and Mr. Henry Castelman began a series of three. The latter were newcomers and on the whole the lady made the more favourable impression. She can at least claim to be a well-cultivated artist, with a powerful soprano voice and genuine operatic style, even though her intonation, on high notes be not always impeccable.

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THE QUARTERLIES

The principal literary article in the current QUARTERLY is one on 'The French Novel' by Arthur McDowall, based on the recently published works of Dr. Saintsbury and George Wyndham. As was to be expected, his preferences in the case of the French novelists of the nineteenth century are more fashionable than those of Dr. Saintsbury. He overpraises the good points of Balzac, and ignores his essential vulgarity of mind, while the richness of Hugo seems to distress him. Stendhal, as usual, is taken much too seriously. The article on Jane Austen by Miss Austen-Leigh is a pleasant contribution to our knowledge of the personal side of that charming writer. Prof. Popovich describes in a very readable way the life of a Serbian Anglophil in the eighteenth century. We don't know whether the article on Lord French's '1914' calls for notice as literary; it is certainly a piece of trenchant, even bitter, criticism. Dr. Norman's paper on 'War and Mental Disorders,' Mr. Wright's on 'Singapore and Sir Stamford Raffles,' and an unsigned paper on Mesopotamia, are of general interest, and there are the usual papers on economic and political affairs. It is a good average number with nothing of startling interest in it.

The "EDINBURGH" seems more and more to devote itself to politics and economics. Outside them the only papers of general interest are one on 'The Public Schools' by Major Williams, and another on 'France and the British Army' by Capt. Stephen Gwynn. Those who like to see Mr. Lloyd George trounced may read Maj.-Gen. Mahon.

The "SCOTTISH HISTORICAL REVIEW" opens with an article showing a new source for the study of Scottish trade with the Netherlands in the 16th to 18th centuries. It is the accounts of the Water-Sheriff of Zeeland, containing a list of all the ships coming to Veere or Middleburg which paid duty. Messrs. Chambers and Seton contribute a valuable and interesting paper on the first great monument of Scottish prose, Bellenden's translation of Hector Boece's History of Scotland, made in 1531. The authors show that its printed form differs in almost every sentence from the original which is preserved in the Auchinleck MS., now in University College, London, though it is only five years later in date. They urge that the original, a fine example of the noble Scottish prose of the sixteenth century not yet contaminated by the influence of Southern English, should be printed at once. Mr. Storer Clouston continues his study of the Orkneys, considering this time 'The Orkney Townships,' and Prof. Hay Fleming deals faithfully with Lord Guthrie's pronouncement on the Covenanters. It is altogether an exceptionally good number.

The latest number of "SCIENCE PROGRESS" has rather less of general interest to the non-scientific reader than usual, but it contains several essays which may be read with interest and profit. Prof. Schuster's lecture on 'Pure Science in Relation to the National Life' is of value, while the reviews, notes, and correspondence will more than repay perusal from a purely literary point of view.

The "LAW QUARTERLY" contains a note of farewell by its editor for thirty-five years, Sir Frederick Pollock. He is so widely known and liked, his services to the public and to letters have been so great, that little need be said about them, and we are glad to see that with less responsibility he intends to continue his co-operation in the Quarterly. Mr. Senior has a valuable paper on 'Admiralty Matters in the Fifteenth Century,' dealing with cases which lie at the root of International Law in a way that may be understood by the layman, and Mr. Cohen continues his interesting discussion of 'The Origins of the English Bar.' Among the purely professional articles is one on the law of Petroleum as a mineral.

The "JOURNAL OF COMPARATIVE LEGISLATION," while mainly technical, has papers on 'The New Constitution of China,' 'Woman Suffrage,' 'The United States Pension System,' and 'The New Code of Roman Canon Law,' of general interest.

The "CHURCH QUARTERLY," besides its specially religious articles, has a most carefully documented account of 'The Bishops' Palaces in Old London' by Mr. Wilberforce Jenkinson, which should attract the antiquary.

The current "REVUE DES DEUX MONDES" contains, besides the end of Louis Madelin's most valuable account of the 1918 campaign under the title of 'La Bataille de France,' a valuable account of 'Le Règne de Lénine' by Baron Boris Nolde, a diplomat who has had personal experience of life in Russia under the Bolshevik régime.

The "NEW WORLD" is so inclusive in its interests as to find room for Dr. Saintsbury, Mr. Hannen Swaffer, and Paul Margueritte. This shows for one thing an open mind in the editor. The journal is full of good reading, and supplies a valuable picture of the intellectual movement in the countries of the Entente.

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MOTOR NOTES

The care of tyres is a matter to which it behoves every motorist to give adequate attention. This is necessary on the score of safety, and more economies are effected by considerate tyre usage than is generally supposed. The method of driving has a great deal to do with one's yearly tyre bill. If one habitually drives over bad roads tyres naturally wear out quicker than in town travelling; but the expert driver always stands to save a lot in tyre cost in comparison with one who is unskilled or reckless. The driver who rushes up to an obstacle and then brakes violently to avoid running into it takes life out of his tyres very quickly. Letting in the clutch carelessly and causing the rear wheels to spin before they can grip the road is a common cause of tyre wastage. Turning corners at too high a speed is also an extravagance in this respect. Each of these faults may at any time result in an actual breakdown or accident, and if they are habitual they render the finest tyre liable to give poor service.

Under-inflation is a common cause of rapid tyre wear. Motorists who are careful at the driving wheel often err in this direction. The tyre firms usually issue a table of pressures to which they recommend that their tyres of various sizes should be inflated. It is well not to disregard these suggestions, for they are the result of practical experience and experiment. Failing definite instructions, a car's tyres should always be inflated until there is no perceptible side roll when one endeavours to move the wheel backwards and forwards by a grip on the spokes; and there should, of course, be no bulging of the tyres when the car is loaded. With large car tyres it is practically impossible to estimate the degree of inflation without a pressure gauge, but nowadays many footpumps are fitted with this useful device. A tyre is much more liable to come off the rim in careless braking, cornering, or clutch manipulation when it is under-inflated.

Tyres should be removed periodically and a careful examination made to determine weak spots in the cover or tube. In ordinary cuts in the tread the road material should be removed with a blunt penknife, and the cut then cleaned with petrol. Large cuts which gape open must be filled with one of the tyre stopping preparations sold for the purpose. Small gashes can often be repaired by filling them, after cleaning, with ordinary rubber solution, and then binding the cover so that the surfaces of the cut adhere. When the cut extends through to the fabric the cover must be reinforced internally. This is best done by solutioning a piece of prepared canvas inside so as to generously cover the weak spot. The canvas reinforcement should overlap a little at the edges of the cover, in order to come round the beading and enable the rim to assist in holding it in place. It is well not to use a cover for a day or so after extensive repairs have been effected. If this is inevitable, however, a gaiter may be placed over the weak spot outside, or, failing this, a canvas sleeve should be sewn around the air tube opposite to the reinforced place in the cover.

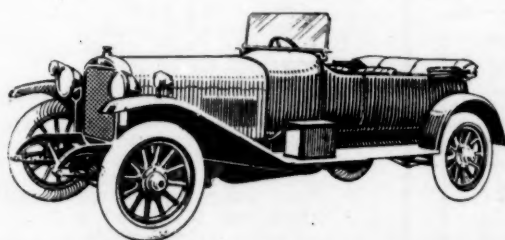
Vulcanising is now recognised as almost essential for repairs to the tubes of car tyres, and some very handy portable vulcanising plants are on the market by means of which the motorist may undertake this work himself or have it done in his own garage. When a tube is vulcanised the damaged part is practically re-made instead of repaired, and, provided the operation is carried out carefully, it invariably provides a permanent rectification. The absence of a spare tube sometimes makes it inevitable to resort to the patch method of repairing. When this is necessary the operation must be carried out very carefully and deliberately to ensure success, and it is not the trivial undertaking that many modern motorists who have not had to do it apparently imagine. We may return to this subject in a future issue.

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T. FISHER UNWIN, Ltd., 1 Adelphi Terrace, London.

A. DARRACQ & CO. (1905), LTD.

THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of this company was held on December 1st in London, Mr. James Todd, J.P., F.C.A., presiding.

The Chairman, after referring to the valuable services which the late Mr. Norman Craig had rendered to the company in his capacity as chairman, said that this was the first annual meeting at which he had had the honour to preside, and it was a source of considerable gratification to him that he had to deal with such a satisfactory position of affairs. The balance-sheet exhibited in a very strong light the sound position which the company now occupied. The assets of the company at September 30th, 1919, amounted to £1,813,503, and deducting creditors, £167,503, and the final dividends, £84,455, they had a net amount of £1,561,545, as against a subscribed share capital of £1,050,000. The whole of the assets stated in the balance-sheet under the heading of shares held in other companies represented, so far as the French company was concerned, only a portion of the actual value to-day of the works represented by those shares. The French Government had met them generously with regard to depreciation during the war period, the position ensuing, therefore, being that they possessed shares which represented assets considerably in excess of the value of the shares included in the balance-sheet. Another valuable section of the assets included in the shares in other companies was the holding in Heenan and Froude, Ltd., of Worcester and Manchester. In these works the company had the control of a valuable engineering business, which had shown during the past year a most satisfactory progression and considerably enhanced profit. The increased profits during the year and the maintenance of the dividend and bonus at the same rate as last year would, he was sure, be deemed satisfactory. Shareholders would recognise that this was the day of commercial combination; amalgamations were in the air. After a very exhaustive examination, and after consultation with a number of the largest shareholders, the directors had come to the conclusion that the large increase in capital suggested was, in the best interests of the shareholders, imperative.

They had recently purchased outright the whole of the share interests in Clement Talbot, Ltd., one of the best-known motor works in this country. The Talbot car was a car which had a world-wide reputation. The works, which were situated in London, were for the most part built prior to the war, and therefore stood at a cost which was very low at present-day values. During the war, however, large additions were made for special Government contracts, and very valuable additions were made to the machine shop equipment, with the result that to-day it was one of the best equipped motor works in this country. The concern was a live going concern, and at the present time large quantities of cars were being turned out, and everything that could possibly be manufactured for a long time ahead was already sold. It was the intention of the directors to institute the same works organisation and methods of standardised production at the Talbot works which had been so successfully in operation at the works in France, which methods would largely increase the production. The output of the Clement Talbot works in the past had been very much hampered by the want of a body-building department. This was now entirely obviated by the fact that this company's body-building factories at Fulham provided for the additional necessary carriage work for the Talbot chassis. A further advantage of this amalgamation of interests would be found in the fact that the output of the company's foundry and stamping plant in France was sufficient to provide practically everything that the Talbot works had hitherto been compelled to purchase outside. The amalgamation of interests of their French works with the Clement Talbot works had already resulted in this company being approached by more than one of the leading motor-car concerns in this country with a view to a further amalgamation of interests. This was gratifying evidence of the confidence which other people had of the future of this company's production. Whilst the purchase of the Clement Talbot works was one good reason for the necessity for a further issue of capital, the primary reason was that it was essential that whatever proposition this company might actually decide to entertain it should have available the necessary financial resources to maintain the predominant control which it exercised in all other companies in which it was interested. The issue price of the new capital would be par for the Preferred Ordinary shares and 32s. 6d. for the Ordinary shares. The holders of existing shares would receive favourable consideration upon allotment. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts and the payment of the dividend and bonus recommended.

Mr. A. Huntley Walker seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

It was unanimously resolved to increase the capital of the company to £2,500,000 by the creation of 1,000,000 Preferred Ordinary shares of £1 each, and by the creation of 350,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each, and at an extraordinary general meeting a resolution was passed altering the articles of association to enable the directors, if it was thought fit, to capitalise any portion of the reserves.

ELDER, DEMPSTER & CO.

AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of Elder, Dempster and Co., Ltd., was held on the 27th ult., at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., for the purpose of submitting a resolution increasing the capital of the company. Sir Owen Philipps, G.C.M.G., M.P. (chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary (Mr. Picton H. Jones) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, since this business was founded in the year 1869, exactly half a century ago, it has steadily increased in size and scope, and in the last nine years, during which I have been chairman, its interests have been further extended. Our paid-up share capital, reserves, and debenture capital amount at the present time to over £6,000,000 sterling, and now that the world-war has been brought to a conclusion we have to prepare for still further expansion. After careful consideration the Board decided to recommend the shareholders to increase the authorised share capital to £15,435,000, so as to enable the company to meet the requirements of the various trades in which it is engaged. During the war we and our associated companies suffered heavily from the depredations of the German submarines. This company lost from this and other causes over 162,000 gross register tons of shipping. Although these steamers were insured, and considerable sums of money have been received from the underwriters, the cost of new tonnage has increased so enormously that the insurance moneys will not by any means suffice to pay for the vessels required to replace losses. We arranged to make good all our losses as promptly as possible, and to provide adequately for anticipated developments in all the trades in which the company is concerned. I am pleased to be able to state that within a month's time—namely, by the end of the present year—the company will have more tonnage afloat than it had at the outbreak of war in 1914; and, besides this, we have a very large number of steamers under construction which will add enormously to the size of the company's fleet. The resolution which I submit to-day divides itself into three parts: (1) The increase of the authorised amount of the 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares from £2,000,000 to £5,000,000; (2) the creation of £7,000,000 new preference shares, ranking after the other preference shares, at a rate of interest to be settled by the Board at the time of issue (the issue of these shares will greatly increase the security of the 6 per cent. preference shares); (3) the increase of the ordinary capital to £3,000,000. I shall be pleased to answer any questions. I now beg to move the resolution which has already been read to you, and will ask Lord Pirrie to second it.

The Right Hon. Lord Pirrie, K.P., P.C., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The proceedings then terminated.

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The Largest Mutual Life Office in the Empire.

Invested FUNDS (1919) £39,000,000 ANNUAL INCOME (1918) £5,250,000

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EVERY YEAR A BONUS YEAR

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Endowment Assurance Results also unsurpassed.

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INSURANCE

The chief interest in insurance is still in the amazing flow of new concerns, and the past month has probably created a record which is not likely to be beaten. Readers of this column may welcome a few practical considerations on investment. The majority of the new companies are dealing solely with reinsurance, and the reason advanced for their appearance is partly a national one. Before the War this section of the business was almost entirely in the hands of the German companies, and it is a patriotic as well as a good commercial proposition to attempt to create a market of our own. So far the object is entirely laudable. But two things must clearly be borne in mind. First, there is only a limited amount of business for these companies to do, and from the beginning they will be in keen competition, not only among themselves, but with powerful foreign companies, such as those of the Scandinavian countries, which have not allowed the grass to grow under their feet, while the German market was closed to us. A few companies have been formed in close connection with old-established offices, and these are assured of a certain amount of good business. So far as the others are concerned, investors must consider carefully the second point, which is the strength of the directorate and the capacity of the management. The directors may have relations with the direct companies which will bring business, but the true success of the concern will depend on the ability of the managers to conduct its affairs wisely, and it must be borne in mind that very few men have had any real experience which would fit them for this work. The general advice of going cautiously cannot be urged too strongly. There is an uncalled liability on most of the shares, which might easily become a burden, if it were called up in a year or two; and in some cases that is a not unlikely contingency. The ordinary investor who rushes for new insurance shares, just because they are insurance, may regret it. He should take all the expert advice he can get in each particular case.

So far as direct companies are concerned, a new company has to face intense competition, and in any event can only come to success by very slow paces. In one or two cases well-established companies have made issues, and these are from every point of view the most desirable, even though a fairly high premium is required. Their past is likely to be a fair guide to their future, and there are possibilities of an immediate return on capital.

Amalgamations have gone on apace, and that between the Royal and the Liverpool and London and Globe is probably the greatest ever carried through. The shareholders of the latter company had no reason to complain of the terms offered to them; but on the whole it is difficult to see what real advantage will accrue from the fusion of interests. It looks rather like amalgamation for amalgamation's sake with a hankering after greatness. The proposed amalgamation between the Guardian and the Legal and General is on another footing. Both have an excellent life business which is capable of development. The Legal and General obtained powers only a year or two ago to transact other classes of business beyond life, and the company must have a fine connection which can be approached for general business. As a business proposition, it is probably more beneficial that that should be done through a big company which has a powerful organisation already in existence rather than by one which has only just taken powers to do general business and would require to build up an organisation at considerable cost.

The announcement that Sir Gerald Ryan is relinquishing the general managership of the Phoenix at the end of the present year might have meant the disappearance of one who stands easily at the head of his profession. It is a unique tribute that on his retirement from an official position the directors should have elected Sir Gerald to the Chairmanship of the Company.

THE CITY

Stock markets are on the down grade; business is diminishing. The chief reasons are: money is required for trade purposes; the unprecedented flow of new issues is absorbing a mass of investable money; the approach of Christmas always tends to check speculative business; many speculators can see handsome profits and are inclined to take them; the Continent is selling steadily as much as the London market will take; exchange movements are unfavourable to stocks, except as regards Americans, and as this country's holdings of Americans is negligible, the only effect here is the uncomfortable sensation caused by the spectacle of the pound sterling being quoted below \$4.

With the exchanges as they are the premium obtainable by gold-producing companies for their output is increasing. At the moment of writing the price for fine gold is 108s., as compared with the old price of 84s. 6d. per ounce. This means that the companies are getting 25 p.c. more for their gold than they did a year ago, and the bulk of this increase in revenue goes to profits, the ratio of increase in profits, therefore, being much greater than that on output.

The inexorable fate which pursues private banks in this country has overtaken Cocks, Biddulph and Co. This dignified old house, established in 1757, has at last surrendered its independence to the Bank of Liverpool and Martins, which secures a valuable west-end connection. Regret that another of the best old family banks should be swallowed up is tempered by the fact that it has not passed into the hands of one of the "big five" banks. The bank of Liverpool and Martins with its new absorptions—the Palatine Bank, Halifax Commercial Banking Co., and Cocks, Biddulph and Co.—will command deposits amounting to £75,000,000.

The eagerly-awaited Dunlop Rubber and Mexican Eagle bonus issues are "out." Dunlop shareholders may buy two new shares at £8 each in respect to every three shares held, and Mexican Eagle shareholders may take up one new share at £1 5s. 2d. in respect to every two shares held. Of course, profit taking ensues, and there is talk of "disappointment"; but we see no reason to quarrel with the Mexican Eagle scheme. The December dividend will enable most holders to take up their new shares. As regards the Dunlop issue, it looks as if the underwriters are keen to pick up all the shares they can get. The price of £8 each is rather stiff for some shareholders, and no arrangements have been made for selling their rights, which is a serious omission on the part of the Board. Our advice to shareholders is to take up the new shares if possible.

The Simplex Construction Co., which has a capital of £220,000 in 200,000 ordinary £1 shares and 200,000 deferred 2s. shares, is offering 175,000 ordinary shares at par. The company has been formed to construct houses in which bricks, plaster, bolts and nuts are unnecessary owing to the use of a new building material known as "Silab" sheeting, together with the company's special interlocking steel frame and foundation blocks. It will acquire land, buildings and a water-power mill at Horton, near Slough, for the manufacture of "Silab" materials, and the lease of about 5 acres of building land on the Grand Junction Canal at Viewsley, near West Drayton, for the erection of a main distributing dépôt.

The Olympic Fire and General Re-insurance Co., with a capital of £400,000 in £1 shares, is offering 350,000 shares to the public. This will be a tariff office. The Board consists of Earl Russell, Sir Maurice Levy, and Mr. Richard Sewell, C.A., who will be joined by Mr. Wilfred W. White on his retirement from the post of sub-manager of the Fire Department of the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation at the end of the year.

Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company, Limited, have issued the following circular to their shareholders:

MARCONI HOUSE,
STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.
3rd December, 1919.

DEAR SIR (OR MADAM),

On the 13th ultimo at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company a Resolution was passed authorising the increase of the Company's capital by £1,500,000. The *Times* report of the proceedings of this meeting was duly forwarded to you.

On the 28th ultimo the Confirmatory Meeting was held, and a copy of the *Times* report of the proceedings of that meeting is enclosed herewith.

At these meetings the Chairman informed you of the important and extensive developments of the Company's business and the necessity for the substantial increase of the Company's capital in order to provide for the commitments already entered into and to be ready to carry out the offer, if and when called upon to do so, which the Company has made to the Government to construct and organise a thorough and efficient Wireless Telegraph service between all distant parts of the Empire and the Mother Country.

In these circumstances and for the reason which has already been given at the Extraordinary General Meeting on the 13th November, it was regarded as inexpedient to distribute a cash bonus to the Shareholders, but a promise was made that this should be compensated for by the terms of the issue of the new capital.

The Directors have pleasure in informing you that in fulfilment of this promise they have decided to issue the whole of the increased capital to shareholders only at £2 per share premium. This will entitle every shareholder, whether he holds Preference or Ordinary shares, to secure one new share at the price of £3 for every share he may hold on the 4th December, 1919, when the register will be closed.

Letters of allotment and renunciation will be posted to both classes of shareholders and due provision will be made for the holders of Share Warrants upon fulfilment of the necessary formalities. The new shares will rank for dividends declared in respect of the period commencing 1st January, 1920, but in all other respects will rank *pari passu* with the existing 1,250,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each.

The transfer books will be closed from Thursday, 4th December, to Tuesday, 9th December, inclusive, for the preparation of allotment letters, which will be posted to the shareholders on or about the 8th instant.

It will be remembered that the Profit and Loss Account for the year ending 31st December, 1918, showed a net profit of £597,938 9s. 0d., which together with the amount brought forward left the sum of £974,608 14s. 8d. to the credit of Profit and Loss Account. After payment of dividends amounting to 25 per cent. for the year on the Ordinary shares and 22 per cent. upon the Preference shares and transferring £150,000 to General Reserve Account (making a total to the credit of General Reserve of £1,250,000), a balance of £463,786 14s. 8d. was carried forward to the current year's account.

With the considerable additional capital which this issue will provide, and having regard to the immense development of Wireless Telegraphic and Telephonic business throughout the world, the earning powers of the Company should be greatly enhanced. The Directors are confident that the profits of the current year will justify them in maintaining the rate of dividend, and there is every reason to hope that the increase in the capital of the Company should at least produce a proportionate increase of profits in future years.

I am, yours faithfully,

H. W. CORBY,
Secretary.

A copy of this Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.
Application will be made to the Committee of the Stock Exchange for its permission to deal in these Shares after allotment.

The List of Applications will open on the 5th DECEMBER, 1919, and close on or before the 10th DECEMBER, 1919.

Olympic Fire & General Reinsurance Co. Ltd.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1908 to 1917.

Capital - £400,000
Divided into 400,000 Shares at £1 each.

ISSUE OF 350,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH AT PAR

PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS:-

2s. 6d. on Application. 2s. 6d. Two Months after Allotment.
2s. 6d. on Allotment. 2s. 6d. Four months after Allotment.
The Directors do not contemplate calling up more than 10s. per Share.

DIRECTORS.

RIGHT HON. EARL RUSSELL (Chairman), Telegraph House, Chichester.
Chairman, Humber, Ltd.
SIR MAURICE LEVY, BART., J.P. (Vice-Chairman), Great Glen House,
Leicestershire. Chairman of Hart & Levy, Ltd., Wholesale Clothing
Manufacturers and Exporters. Local Director, State Assurance Company,
Ltd.

RICHARD SEWELL, Esq., C.A., of Sewell, Hutchinson & Co., Chartered
Accountants, 4, Broad Street Place, London, E.C.

Mr. Wilfred W. White will join the Board on his retirement from the
position of Sub-Manager of the Fire Department of the Royal Exchange
Assurance Corporation at the end of the year.

BANKERS.

LLOYDS BANK, LIMITED (Capital and Counties Branch), 39, Threadneedle
Street, E.C.; Lombard Street, E.C., and Branches.

NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD., 18, St. Swithin's Lane,
E.C.; Circus Place, London Wall, E.C.; and Cockspur Street, S.W.

SOLICITORS.

CHURCHILL, SMALLMAN & CO., 1, Broad Street Place, London, E.C.2.

BROKERS.

WEDDLE, BECK & CO., Swan House, Great Swan Alley, Moorgate Street,
London, E.C.2, and The London Stock Exchange.

HENRY J. THOMAS & CO., 120, Bute Street, and Stock Exchange, Cardiff.
F. G. COOK, Esq., 48, West Regent Street, and Stock Exchange, Glasgow.

AUDITORS.

A. J. MILNE & CO., Chartered Accountants, Pinners' Hall, Austin Friars, London, E.C.2.

SECRETARY & REGISTERED OFFICES (pro tem.)
E. W. LOWE, A.C.A., Pinners' Hall, Austin Friars, London, E.C.2.

PROSPECTUS.

The Company has been formed to carry out the objects mentioned in its
Memorandum of Association, and particularly to transact Fire, Accident and
Marine Reinsurance business, and, pursuant to the provisions of the Assurance
Companies Act, 1909, the sum of £20,000 has been deposited with the Pay-
master-General.

The Directors believe that at the present time there is a wide field open
for the transaction of the classes of Insurance authorised by the Company's
Memorandum of Association, and in view of the increased cost of labour and
building materials of all kinds, vessels and freights, they feel justified in
anticipating in the future a large increase in the total premium income of
Companies operating in this country and abroad derived from Fire and
Marine Insurance business.

The financial success of the old-established Insurance Offices is too well-
known to need more than a passing reference. Amongst those of more recent
establishment, the results shown by the following companies may be men-
tioned:-

Name.	Date of Estab- lishment.	Denomination of Ordinary Shares.	Amount paid up on each Share.	Present Price (approx.)
British General	1904	£1	5s.	2 12 6
City Equitable	1908	£1 (Preference)	4s.	3 2 6
United British	1915	£1	£1	4 7 6
Eagle Star and British Dominions	1904	£3	£3	19 0 0
Consolidated	1903	£1	£1	5 12 6

The Directors of the Company have entered into preliminary arrangements
with the First National Reinsurance Company, Limited, by which this Com-
pany will have the benefit of the office accommodation of the First National
Reinsurance Company, Limited, in Throgmorton Street, in the heart of the
City of London.

The Company is fortunate in having associated with it Mr. Wilfred White,
who has had over forty years' Fire Insurance experience. He will have the
active supervision of the Company's affairs for twelve months, during which
time he will be responsible for the organisation of the Fire Department. The
Board have sought the advice and judgment of Mr. White in the choice of
the Fire Manager, and upon his recommendation propose to appoint Mr. L. E.
Alsop, who has been for twelve years head of the Guarantee Department in
London of the London and Lancashire Fire Office.

The Directors are arranging to engage as Underwriter for the Marine
Department Mr. L. E. Chitty, who has for some years acted as Deputy
Underwriter to one of the strongest syndicates at Lloyds. Prior to his
appointment as such Deputy Underwriter he was for three years with the
British Dominions Company, during the last year of which period he managed
their Reinsurance Department. Mr. Chitty's business connections in the
Marine Insurance world should prove of advantage.

It is intended to transact business on Tariff lines, and application will
be made to the Fire Officers Committee and the Accident Officers Association
for admission as Associates.

The whole of the capital subscribed, less the amount of the preliminary
expenses (estimated at £12,500) and the underwriting commission, will be
available for working capital.

The minimum subscription on which the Directors may proceed to allot-
ment is seven shares, but as £150,000 of the issue has been underwritten,
the Directors will proceed to allotment on the closing of the lists.

The following Contract has been entered into:-
Dated 3rd December, 1919, made between the Company and The Angel
Court Trust, Limited, under which the Trust agrees to underwrite 150,000
shares (part of the 350,000 shares now offered for subscription) for a com-
mission of 3 per cent. and an overriding commission of 1 per cent., and
such commission is payable by the Company. The said Trust also agrees
in consideration of the payment to them of £12,500 to advance the
£20,000 required to be deposited with the Paymaster-General as before
stated, and to pay all the expenses in connection with the registration
of the Company and the printing and publication of this Prospectus and
all other expenses of the Company down to the first general allotment of
shares. As further consideration for their services the Angel Court Trust,
Limited, has the right to nominate one Director to the Board of the
Company after allotment and to a call over the 50,000 unissued shares at
par for a period of three years.

The Articles of Association of the Company provide as follows:-

The qualification of a Director other than a first Director or an alter-
nate Director shall be the holding of 500 shares of the Company, and, if
not already qualified, he shall obtain his qualification within two months
from the date of his appointment.

The Directors of the Company other than the Managing Directors
or Director shall be paid out of the funds of the Company by way of
remuneration for their services a sum calculated at the rate of £350 per
annum for each Director and £350 per annum additional for the Chair-
man, and in proportion for any less period than a year; and further,
whenever a distribution of assets is made among the Members by way of
dividend, whether in cash or otherwise, the Directors shall be paid as
additional remuneration for their services, cash or other assets, as the case
may be, equivalent to ten per cent. of the cash or other assets, as the
case may be, so distributed among the Members by way of dividend in
excess in any year of ten per cent. on the nominal amount of the issued
capital of the Company for the time being, provided always that such
additional remuneration shall not in any one year exceed £2,000. Such
additional remuneration shall be divided among the Directors in such
proportion and manner as the Directors shall determine, and in default
of agreement equally.

In addition to the remuneration above mentioned, the Directors shall
be repaid such reasonable travelling, hotel and other expenses as they
may incur in attending Meetings of the Board or of Committees of the
Board or General Meetings, which they may otherwise incur in or about
the business of the Company.

The Board may do the following things:- (a) Establish local boards,
local managing or consulting committees, or local agencies in the United
Kingdom or abroad, and appoint any one or more of their number, or
any other person or persons, to be members thereof, with such powers
and authorities, under such regulations, for such period, and at such
remuneration as they may deem fit, and may from time to time revoke
any such appointment; (b) Appoint, from time to time, any one or more
of their number to be Managing Director or Managing Directors, on
such terms as to remuneration, either in addition to or in substitution
for the remuneration above mentioned, and with such powers and authori-
ties, and for such period as they deem fit, and may revoke such appoint-
ment; (c) Grant to any Director required to go abroad or to render any
other extraordinary service, such special remuneration for the services
rendered as they think proper.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company
and of the above-mentioned Contract can be inspected at the Registered Office
of the Company at any time between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on any
week day whilst the list remains open.

A copy of the Company's Memorandum of Association and of the names,
addresses and descriptions of the signatories and of the number of shares
taken by each subscriber, is printed on the back of this Prospectus and forms
part thereof.

Application will be made in due course to the London Stock Exchange
for a settlement and quotation.

A brokerage of 3d. per share will be paid by the Company on all allot-
ments made to the public in respect of applications bearing the stamp of a
Broker or Banker.

Applications for shares should be made on the form accompanying this
Prospectus and sent to the Company's Bankers, together with a remittance
for the amount payable on application.

Where no allotment is made the application money will be returned in
full, and where the number of shares allotted is less than the number applied
for, the balance of the application money will be applied towards the amount
payable on allotment, and any excess will be returned to the applicant.

Failure to pay any instalment when due will render previous payments
liable to forfeiture. Interest at the rate of ten per cent. per annum will be
charged on instalments in arrear.

Copies of this Prospectus and Forms of Application can be obtained from
the Bankers, Solicitors and Brokers to the Company, or at the Registered
Office.

Dated 3rd December, 1919.

A Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies which, inter alia, states that:—
A Model of a "Simplex" House is on view at the Company's Show Rooms, 97d, Queen Victoria Street, E.C., near Mansion House Station.
The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will OPEN on THURSDAY, the 4th day of December, and CLOSE on or before THURSDAY, the 11th day of December, 1919.
The special permission of the Committee of the Stock Exchange to deal in the Shares is being applied for.

SIMPLEX CONSTRUCTION Company, Ltd.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1908 to 1917.)

SHARE CAPITAL - - £220,000

DIVIDED INTO

200,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each	-	-	£200,000
200,000 Deferred Shares of 2/- each	-	-	20,000
			£220,000

The Ordinary Shares are entitled, out of the divisible profits of each year, to a Preferential Dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum upon the Capital for the time being paid up or credited as paid thereon. After payment of the above Preferential Dividend of 10 per cent. the balance of the divisible profits of the Company in each year will be distributed pari passu share for share among the holders of the Ordinary Shares and Deferred Shares.

The Ordinary Shares are also preferred as to repayment of Capital and as to any deficiency of Preferential dividend upon dissolution. After payment to the holders of the Deferred Shares of the capital paid up on the Deferred Shares, the surplus assets will be divided among the holders of the Ordinary and Deferred Shares, rateably share for share in proportion to the nominal amount of such Shares held by them respectively at the commencement of the winding up.

OFFER OF

£175,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, at par

PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS:

On Application	1s. 0d.
On Allotment	4s. 0d.
Two Months after Allotment	5s. 0d.

And the balance as and when required in calls not exceeding 5s. per share at intervals of not less than two months.

The Shares may be paid up in full on allotment, interest at the rate of Six per cent. per annum being allowed in respect of prepayment of instalments. Subscribers for the Ordinary Shares have the right to subscribe at par for one Deferred Share of 2s. for every five Ordinary Shares allotted, such Deferred Shares to be paid in full on application.

No part of this issue has been or will be underwritten.

DIRECTORS.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL HERBERT CONVERS SURTEES, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., D.L., M.P., Mainsforth Hall, Ferry Hill, Co. Durham, Chairman.
GEORGE LEWIS, "Arranmore," Bushey Hall Road, Bushey, Herts (Solicitor).
OSWALD ROBERT MOUNSEY, Poyle Close, Colnbrook, Bucks (Managing Director, Chemical Engineering Corporation, Ltd.).
E. GORDON REEVE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., 72, Victoria Street, London, S.W. (Late Tuberculosis Officer, Middlesex County Council).

CONSULTING ENGINEERS.

THOMAS & THOMAS, London City and Midland Bank Chambers, 221, Edgware Road, London, W.2.
PERCY J. MITCHELL, M.I.M.E., M.I.S.I., 2, Central Buildings, Westminster, London, S.W.1.
JAMES THAME, M.A.I.M. and M., 118, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.2.

BANKERS.

THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL AND UNION BANK OF ENGLAND, LTD., 61, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.1, Head Office and Branches.

SOLICITORS.

ERNEST SALAMAN & CO., 62, London Wall, E.C.2.
BETTS, STEVENS & BUTLER, 32, Old Jewry, E.C.2.

BROKERS.

WEDDLE, BECK & CO., Swan House, Great Swan Alley, Moorgate Street, E.C.2, and Stock Exchange.
F. G. COOK, 48, West Regent Street, and Stock Exchange, Glasgow.

AUDITORS.

SISSONS, BERSEY, GAIN, VINCENT & CO., 53, New Broad Street, London, E.C.2.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICE.

FREDERICK A. POULTON, Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS

The Company has been formed primarily:—

(1) To construct houses, in which bricks and plaster, bolts and nuts, are rendered unnecessary, their place being taken by the new building material known as "Silab" sheeting, together with the Company's special interlocking steel frame-work and foundation blocks.

(2) To carry on House Construction on the lines of Standardisation and "Mass Production."

(3) To acquire the exclusive rights and formulae for the manufacture of "Silab" Building Materials.

(4) To acquire (1) the land, buildings, and water-power mill at Horton, near Slough, for the manufacture of "Silab" materials; and (2) a lease of Building Land containing about 5½ acres, on the Grand Junction Canal, at Yiewsley, near West Drayton, for the purpose of erecting thereon the Company's main Assembly Depot.

The demand for dwelling houses at a reasonable price is insistent and universal.

To build cheap houses methods of production must be standardised, and the benefits of "massed production" obtained. Bricks, bolts, nuts, and other factors, entailing minute and constantly varying measurements, cutting and fitting, should be eliminated as far as possible. This the Simplex Construction Company are able to do by the method of construction to be employed.

Further, brick and plaster, being costly, are discarded. For these materials the Simplex Construction Company propose to substitute "Silab" material, the qualities and advantages of which are described below.

"SILAB."—"Silab" sheets, slabs, and tiles are manufactured under the special processes acquired by the Company from Mr. J. Thame, M.A.I.M. and M., whereby Silica is treated with fireproof and fibrous cementitious binders, then pressed into interlocking slabs and sheets.

The manufacture is of a simple character, requiring very little labour, the plant being automatically operated.

By using "Silab" slabs and sheeting for exterior and interior walls, in place of bricks and plaster, in a house of corresponding size, a considerable saving is effected.

QUICK, SIMPLE, AND ECONOMICAL ERECTION.—The Company claim for their "Simplex" Houses a considerable advantage, both as to speed of erection and cost, over brick-built houses.

The smallest house proposed to be erected will contain 4 rooms, bathroom, scullery, and a loft which, if desired, can be converted into two further rooms; but buildings can be erected to any size and for any purpose.

The Company opened a Showroom at 97d, Queen Victoria Street, E.C., on the 14th August, 1919, to exhibit a Model of the smallest house which it is proposed to erect. The greatest interest has been aroused. Over 500 applications for specifications of this house have been received, while many applications have also been received for specifications of larger houses.

DESIGNS.—Cheapness and durability alone are, however, insufficient. The houses must also be of the artistic appearance in accordance with the taste of the proposed occupants.

Mr. Thame has for some time past been engaged in preparing the special designs and plans which the Company is acquiring for the construction of houses and other buildings. These retain the advantages of economical construction on standardised principles, while at the same time leaving a wide scope for variation in artistic treatment and finish.

METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION.—The main component parts of the Company's houses comprise interlocking foundation blocks, steel joists, plates, and principals forming the skeleton construction of the buildings, held together by special locking devices which eliminate the use of bolts and nuts. The structure so produced is then covered externally by the Company's "Silab" slabs or tiles, and internally by "Silab" sheeting, dispensing with bricks and plaster.

EXPORT.—"Simplex" Houses are especially well suited for export, and from information furnished by agencies abroad, trade in this direction appears to be very extensive, and should prove a very valuable source of revenue to the Company. The Company does not, however, propose to deal with export trade until the demand for houses in this country is to a large extent met.

Messrs. Thomas & Thomas, Civil Engineers, of London City and Midland Bank Chambers, 221, Edgware Road, W., have reported to the Directors upon the Company's System and properties. A copy of this Report relating to the "Simplex" System of Standard House Construction, under date the 7th day of November, 1919, appears in the full prospectus.

WORKS AT HORTON.—The Company is acquiring the water power mill at Horton, Slough, where it will manufacture "Silab" sheets, slabs and tiles.

The works now under construction at Horton and being acquired by the Company will, it is estimated, be finished within three months, when the Simplex Construction Company can begin the erection of its standard houses.

The Horton Mill Property is valued at £3,350 by Messrs. Thomas and Thomas. (Their report is printed in full in the full prospectus).

In a separate Report, dated 27th November, 1919, addressed to the Directors of the Company, Messrs. Thomas & Thomas further state:—

"IMPROVEMENTS AT HORTON MILLS."

"We have inspected the Works in progress at the Company's property at above and are satisfied that the same can be satisfactorily completed and ready for manufacture within a period of three months, provided a sufficiency of labour and materials is obtained without interference by reason of strikes and other unforeseen circumstances."

The works are being rapidly pushed forward. The chief material required by the Company for the production of "Silab" manufactures exists there in large quantities.

THE WEST DRAYTON CENTRAL DEPOT.—The Company has also contracted to acquire the Building Agreement below mentioned of about 5½ acres of land at Stubb's Close, Yiewsley, with 250ft. frontage on the Grand Junction Canal, near West Drayton Station, on the G.W.R., upon which to erect its central depot for the assembly of the steel and other component parts of buildings. Messrs. Thomas & Thomas, in their Report, dated 28th August, 1919, state:—

Re STUBBS CLOSE, YIEWSLEY, WEST DRAYTON.

We have surveyed this property, which is about 5½ acres in extent, having on the North and East sides extensive frontages to Horton Road, and on the South side of the Grand Junction Canal (main waterway London to Birmingham) of about 250 feet. The roads are made up, and sewered, gas, water, and electric mains traversing the same.

The property is in close proximity to West Drayton Station and Goods Depot (Gt. W. Ry.), and we think it is a feasible proposition to construct a tram road over the canal to the railway opposite the site if required.

Land suitable for manufacturing purposes is rapidly increasing in value in the Southall—West Drayton District, and we think this particular site occupies one of the most important positions in the neighbourhood.

Under the agreement a sum of £2,500 has to be expended in the erection of factory-buildings, and, with this covenant performed, leaving valuable building frontages on the road, we consider that the land will have a value of £1,000 per acre.

In the erection of their buildings alone the Company intends to expend considerably more than the £2,500 called for under the Agreement referred to in the above letter, which would more than ensure the valuation of £1,000 per acre referred to.

It is also proposed to acquire and develop other works outside London in selected areas where the raw material required for "Silab" is at hand.

PURCHASE CONSIDERATION.—The total purchase consideration payable under the agreement and supplemental agreement below mentioned for the above properties at Horton and Yiewsley, near West Drayton, and for the rights in "Silab" and the house designs is £18,850, payable as to £11,350 in cash and as to the balance of £7,500 in 75,000 fully paid Deferred Shares of 2s. each. The purchase consideration also includes the right to subscribe at par for a further 50,000 Deferred Shares, during a period of two years from the 16th August, 1919. No part of the purchase consideration is payable for goodwill.

WORKING CAPITAL.—The 175,000 Ordinary Shares now offered for subscription will, as and when taken up, provide a sum of over £175,000 for

working capital, and for the development and expansion of the Company's business, in addition to any balance receivable in respect of the Deferred Shares.

ESTIMATED TURNOVER AND PROFITS.—Having regard to the large demand for houses and other buildings, and the public interest aroused in the Company's Housing System, the Directors feel confident that the Company will have no difficulty, so soon as the Company's organisation is fully completed, in earning, annually, sufficient to pay on the Company's Capital, as issued, the preferential **DIVIDEND OF 10 PER CENT. PER ANNUM** on the Ordinary Shares, with a substantial surplus for taxation and distribution amongst the holders of the Ordinary and Deferred Shares.

APPLICATIONS BY SHAREHOLDERS FOR THE ERECTION OF "SIMPLEX" HOUSES WILL RECEIVE PREFERENTIAL CONSIDERATION.

The minimum subscription upon which the Directors may proceed to allotment is fixed by the Articles of Association at seven Shares.

The preliminary expenses, exclusive of brokerage, are estimated at £8,500 and will be paid by the Company.

Particulars of the Contracts and other statutory information will be found set out in the full Prospectus.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and of the above mentioned Contracts and reports can be inspected at the Offices of the Solicitors of the Company, Messrs. Ernest Salaman & Co., 62, London Wall, E.C.2, on any day whilst the list remains open, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Applications for Shares will only be received on the terms of the full Prospectus, but the form below may be used and forwarded to the Company's Bankers, with remittances for the amounts payable on application. Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and if the number of Shares allotted be less than that applied for, the balance will be credited towards the amount payable for allotment.

Failure to pay any instalment will render the allotment liable to cancellation and previous instalments liable to forfeiture. Interest at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum will be charged on instalments in arrear.

A brokerage of 3d. per share will be paid on acceptance in respect of public applications for Ordinary Shares bearing the stamp of a broker, banker, or other authorised agent.

Prospectuses and Application Forms can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, and also from the Company's Bankers and Brokers.

Dated 4th December, 1919.

ORDINARY SHARES.

No.

SIMPLEX CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1908 to 1917).

Offer of 175,000 ORDINARY SHARES of £1 each at par, with a right to subscribe for one Deferred Share of 2s. for every 5 Ordinary Shares allotted as mentioned in the Prospectus.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR ORDINARY SHARES.

(To be retained by the Bankers).

To the Directors, SIMPLEX CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, LIMITED.

Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £.....being a deposit of 2s. per Share on application for Ordinary Shares of £1 each, I/we request you to allot me/us such number of Shares upon the terms of your full Prospectus dated 4th December, 1919, subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the said Company, and I/we hereby agree to accept the same or any smaller number of Ordinary Shares that may be allotted to me/us and to pay the balance due from me/us as specified in the said Prospectus, and I/we authorise you to register me/us as the holder of the said Shares.

I/WE HEREBY DECLARE that this application is not made by me/us for the benefit of an enemy subject within the meaning of the Trading with the Enemy Amendment Act, 1916.

Name (in full)
(Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Address (in full)

Usual Signature

Date1919.

Occupation.....
No receipt will be issued for payment on application, but an acknowledgment will be forwarded in due course either by an allotment letter in whole or in part, or by return of the deposit.

Cheques should be made payable to bearer and crossed "Not negotiable." Any alteration from "order" to "bearer" must be authenticated by the drawer's signature or initials.

This form should be filled up and forwarded to the Bankers of the Company, the National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Ltd., at 61, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, Head Office, or any of its branches, together with a remittance of 2s. per Ordinary Share on the number of Shares applied for.

DEFERRED SHARES.

No.

SIMPLEX CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1908 to 1917).

Offer of 175,000 ORDINARY SHARES of £1 each at par, with a right to subscribe for one Deferred Share of 2s. for every 5 Ordinary Shares allotted as mentioned in the Prospectus.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR DEFERRED SHARES.

(To be retained by the Bankers).

To the Directors, SIMPLEX CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, LIMITED.

Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £.....being payment in full of 2s. per Share on application for Deferred Shares of 2s. each, I/we request you to allot me/us such number of Shares upon the terms of your full Prospectus dated 4th December, 1919, subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the said Company, and I/we hereby agree to accept the same or any smaller number of Deferred Shares that may be allotted to me/us, and I/we authorise you to register me/us as the holder of the said Shares.

I/WE HEREBY DECLARE that this application is not made by me/us for the benefit of an enemy subject within the meaning of the Trading with the Enemy Amendment Act, 1916.

Name (in full)
(Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Address (in full)

Usual Signature

Date1919.

Occupation.....
No receipt will be issued for payment on application, but an acknowledgment will be forwarded in due course either by an allotment letter in whole or in part, or by return of the amount paid.

Cheques should be made payable to bearer and crossed "Not negotiable." Any alteration from "order" to "bearer" must be authenticated by the drawer's signature or initials.

This form should be filled up and forwarded to the Bankers of the Company, the National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Ltd., at 61, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, Head Office, or any of its branches, together with a remittance of 2s. per Deferred Share on the number of Shares applied for.

S. SMITH & SONS (MOTOR ACCESSORIES).

THE FIFTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of S. Smith and Sons (Motor Accessories), Ltd., was held on the 3rd inst., at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. Samuel Smith (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. A. Cotterell) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen, the work in hand to-day is larger than ever in the history of the company. We have laid ourselves out to become the most important and largest motor accessories manufacturers in the United Kingdom. I think there can be no doubt that we occupy that proud position to-day. Of course, with our considerably increased capital one expected to do more business, but I confess that it has been a surprise to us that the company should have been invited to undertake contracts such as have been offered during the last few months. It really proves what I have said before, that motor transport is still in its infancy, and that those firms which have the capacity to extend and are willing to energetically carry on their business have an excellent future before them. We have lately seen amalgamations on all side. It seems to me that success is going to attend those businesses which amalgamate and are able to provide mass production. By so doing we shall reduce our charges to the public and can provide better conditions for our work people. By unifying control the best results are obtained, and I am satisfied therefore that our policy of extension adopted from time to time has been all to the good, and will ensure to the benefit and financial stability of the company. Practically every machine we had on war work has, you will be glad to hear, been adapted to post-war requirements. When I talk about production to-day you must not assume that I mean delivery, as there is necessarily a considerable lapse of time from the first operations to the actual delivery to the customer. It is during this time that a large stock of components has to be accumulated in order that the assembling of the complete units may be carried out on economical and modern lines, which, of course, involves a very considerable part of our working capital.

This, however, I can tell you—and I think the figure is eloquent of what is being accomplished—that the actual sales of the company and its subsidiaries at the present time are at the rate of approximately £1,000,000 sterling per annum, a higher figure

than it has reached at any time during the war, and ten times the pre-war sales of the company. The Board anticipates that by the end of the present financial year the turnover will be at the rate of from £1,500,000 to £2,000,000 per annum. An increase should in the natural order of things improve the ratio of expenses to turnover, and so allow a somewhat larger profit to be expected, but while I make this statement I ought perhaps to qualify it with another. It depends entirely upon labour as to whether these ends can be attained. The greater the output the better are we in a position to treat our work people. Production is what is wanted to-day, not only for the motor trade as a trade, but to bring down prices, and so rehabilitate the former financial position of this country as being the first in the world's finance. I feel sure that our work people clearly recognise that their future prospects and welfare depend entirely upon production and bona fide work.

Before moving the formal resolutions, which it is my duty to put to you, and then to adjourn the meeting, I would like to first call your attention particularly to one or two of our chief products. Speedometers: The production of the new models is now in full swing, and amounts to several hundreds daily. The demand is very large, and at present far exceeds the supply. Lighting and starting equipment: Here we are one of the comparatively newcomers, but you will be gratified to know that the equipment has been recognised as one of the best on the market, and has been adopted as standard by a number of the leading British manufacturers. The demand is very large. Production is increasing week by week, and we are at present turning out several hundreds per week. We anticipate an output of something like 750,000 in this product alone.

Mr. A. Gordon Smith, managing director: First of all I should like to thank our chairman for his very flattering remarks about myself. Those remarks are really quite unmerited, because I was only doing my duty to the company. I want to place on record the loyal co-operation which has been extended to me by the board in general and also by the staff, particularly the staff at the Crickwood Works. Mr. Macgregor, our works manager, has perhaps had the most difficult task of us all in controlling and handling the labour during these very troublesome times. He has come through it with flying colours, and it is largely due to his help that we have come through it in such a satisfactory manner. We have still got a lot more to do in building up the output of the works to what we are all looking for, but I feel sure that if we all pull together we shall attain that object. I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution proposed by the chairman.

The resolution was carried unanimously.